賭博覇王伝 ゼロ ギャンキ鬼編 零 ZERO

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賭博覇王伝 ゼロ ギャンキ鬼編 零 ZERO

最後の謎！
地下への入り口の扉を
こじ開ける最終暗号！（ラストコード）

ZERO

NOBUYUKI FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

福本伸行作品

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HIROYUKI FUKUNAGA PRESENTS
9

AHH!
I SEE DICE...
DID YOU FIND SOME-THING?
WHAT IS IT, ZERO?
WITH ENGRAVED LETTERS.
Chapter 71 Letters
第71話 文字

THERE ARE LETTERS ENGRAVED ON THE DICE? IS IT... LIKE AN ANSWER?
WORDS?
WHAT?
AN ANSWER TO THE CRYPTIC MESSAGE?
NO, IT'S...
WAIT, WHAT?
LET ME SEE!
M-MOVE IT!

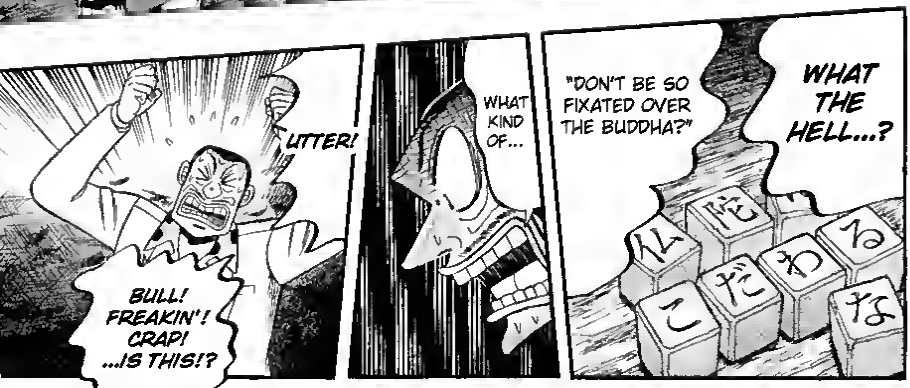
ZERO!
WHAT IS IT!?
WHAT DID YOU SEE!? DID YOU FIGURE OUT SOMETHING!?
AHH!
HUH?
B...
BUT...
WAIT, WHAT?
MOVE IT!
LET ME HAVE A LOOK!

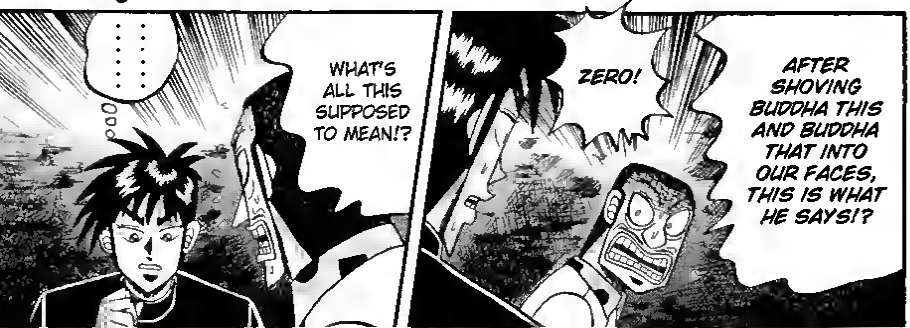
AHH!
SO THE DICE ARE NEXT TO THE HEAD...?
I SEE'EM!
I'M TAKING THEM OUT!

AHH!
GIVE ME SOME LIGHT!
ボォ――。。

DON'T BE SO FIXATED OVER THE BUDDHA
仏陀にこだわるな

ぞわ…
WHA...


UTTER!
BULL! FREAKIN'! CRAP! ...IS THIS!?
WHAT KIND OF...
"DON'T BE SO FIXATED OVER THE BUDDHA?"
WHAT THE HELL...?


WHAT'S ALL THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
ZERO!
AFTER SHOVING BUDDHA THIS AND BUDDHA THAT INTO OUR FACES, THIS IS WHAT HE SAYS!?

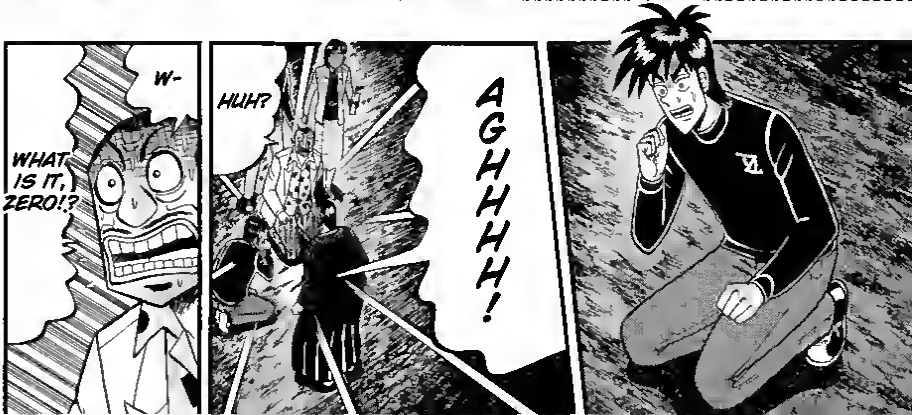
AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS

ALL THIS TIME,
THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON,
THAT WOULD LEAD US TO WHERE HE'S CONFINED.
WAS THE CODE,
WE'VE BEEN THINKING THAT THE BUDDHA-MESSAGE,

DAMN IT, DAMN IT, DAMN IT!
GAHH!
WHY WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE,
AND SPENT ALL DAY INVESTIGATING EVERYTHING NEAR THE SWAMP AND HIS VILLA. BUT WERE WE FOLLOWING A FALSE LEAD ALL ALONG..?
UU...
ZERO...?
ぎゃ
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT LED US TO THIS RESORT TOWN...?
WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT,
WAIT...
NO,

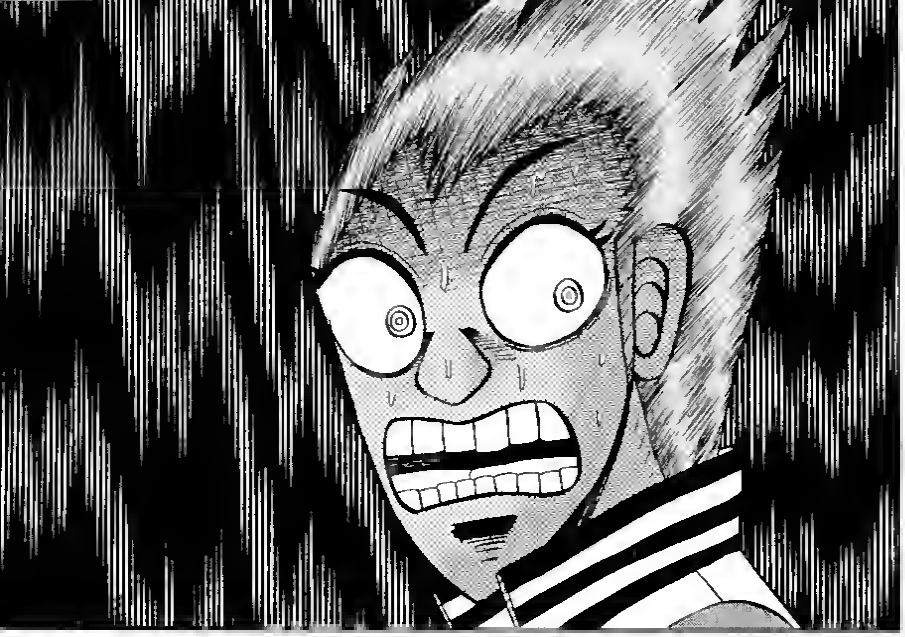
アッダンサイゴンネルノカラヌマデ
IT WAS THAT!
アッダンサイゴ
THAT WAS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.
THEN COULD IT BE,
AT FUJIMI-HILLS FAMILY TOWN.
THAT WE SAW FROM KIJUROU'S CHAIR,
IT WAS THAT HIDDEN MESS-AGE,
ネルノカラヌマデ
BACK THEN?
THAT WE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING CRITICAL,

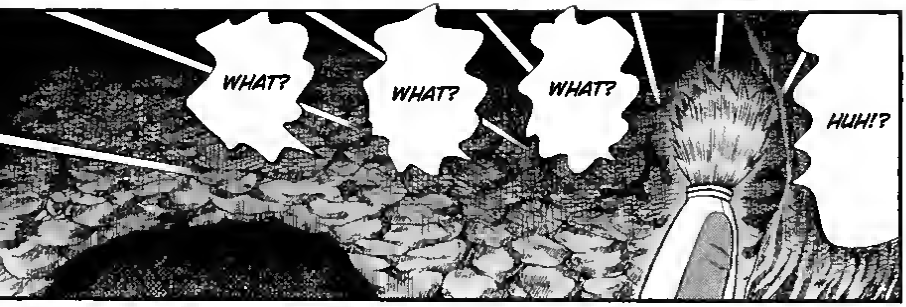
AH!


W-
WHAT IS IT, ZERO!?
HUH?
AGHHHH!

ZERO?
WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!

C'MON, LET'S GO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WE FELL FOR KIJUROU'S TRICK AGAIN!
WHA?
ZERO?
GO!? GO WHERE?
ZERO!
HUH?
WHA?
W-
ZERO, WAIT!




WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?
HUH!?

ZERO!
EXPLAIN YOUR-SELF!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN TRICKED?
DID HE FIGURE OUT!?
JUST WHAT,

DON'T BE SO FIXATED OVER THE BUDDHA
仏陀にこだわるな
JUST WHAT COULD YOU HAVE FIGURED OUT,
FROM THIS RIDICULOUS MESSAGE THAT GOES AGAINST EVERY THEORY WE WERE BUILDING UPON!?

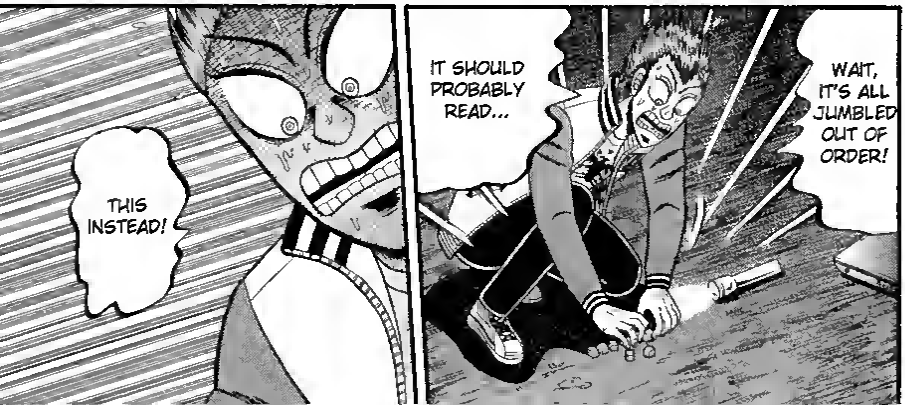
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING... ZERO'S ALREADY REALIZED IT, BUT...

DAMN IT, DAMN IT, DAMN IT, GODDAMN IT!!!
BUT I STILL CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT ...!?
?
uu...

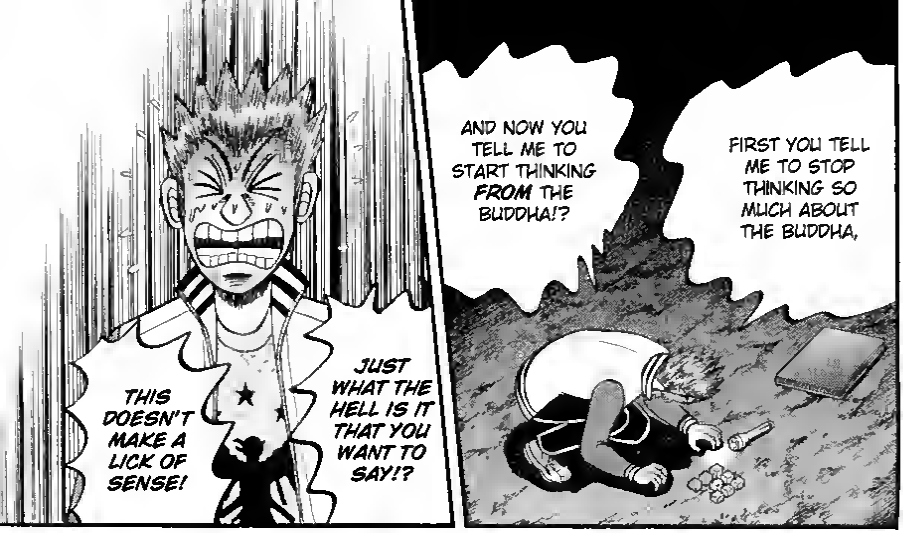
DAMN IT...
TO HELL WITH THIS STUPID-
WAIT A SECOND!
WAIT..
WHA?
W-
HUH?

THERE ARE LETTERS ON THE OTHER SIDE!
THE FRONT SIDE SAYS, "DON'T BE SO FIXATED OVER THE BUDDHA,"
BUT THE LETTERS ON THE OTHER SIDE READS...

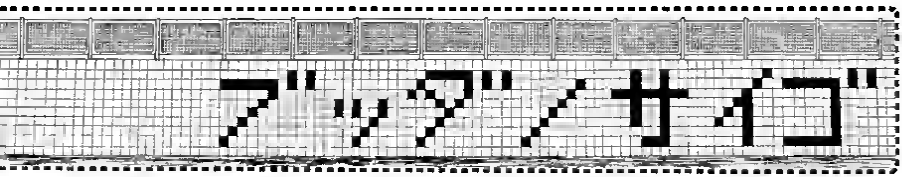
よダかブ始らッめ

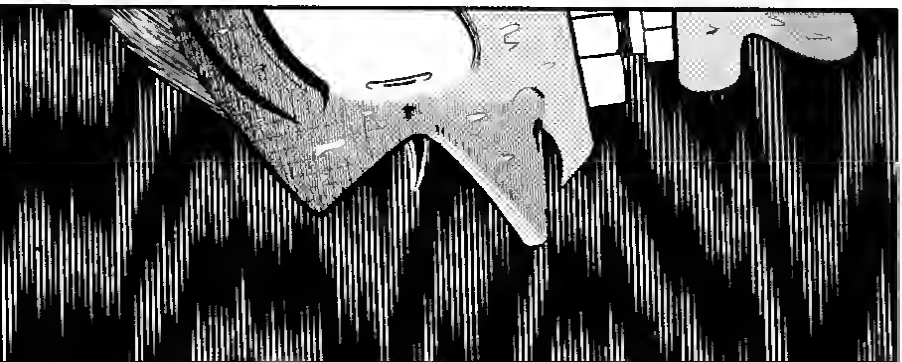

WAIT, IT'S ALL JUMBLED OUT OF ORDER!
IT SHOULD PROBABLY READ...
THIS INSTEAD!

START FROM BUDDHA
ブッダから始めよ
W...
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
WHA?
NY 58

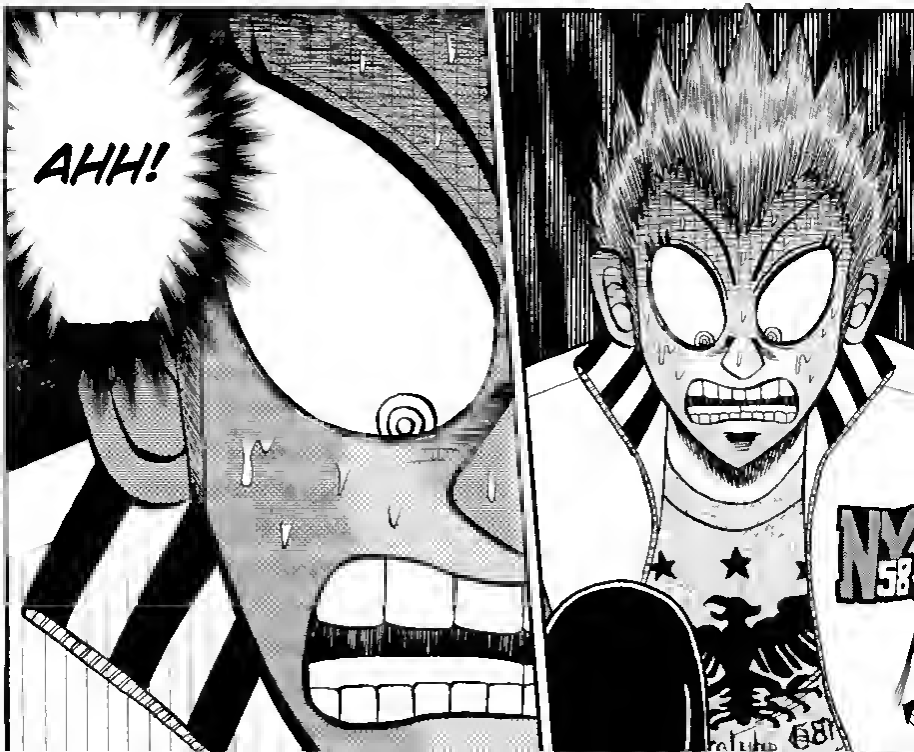

FIRST YOU TELL ME TO STOP THINKING SO MUCH ABOUT THE BUDDHA,
AND NOW YOU TELL ME TO START THINKING *FROM* THE BUDDHA!?
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO SAY!?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE A LICK OF SENSE!

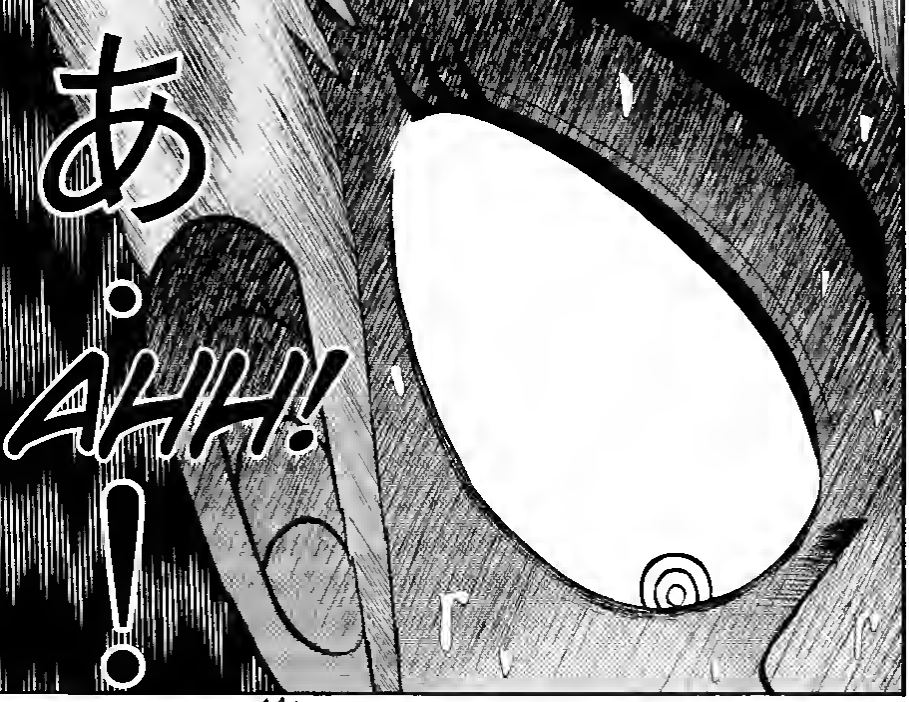
FOR GOD'S SAKE...
UU...

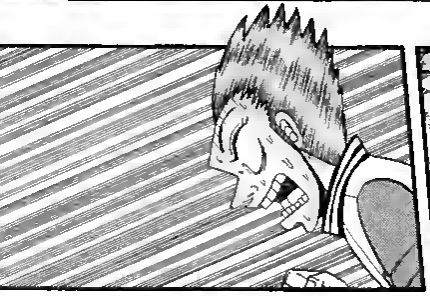

アッダン サイコ



*TL NOTE: CAN'T COHERENTLY TRANSLATE THESE BITS AND PARTS OF THE MESSAGE WITHOUT GIVING AWAY THE SECRET. JUST WAIT FOR THE EXPLANATION LATER ON IN THIS VOLUME.







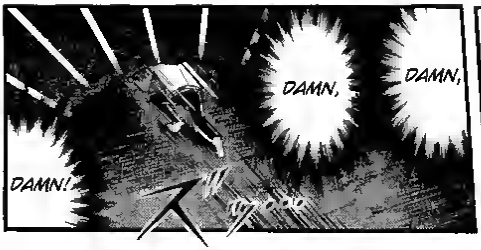
START FROM BUDDHA

ブッダから始めよ

Chapter 72 Mad Dash

第72話　疾走

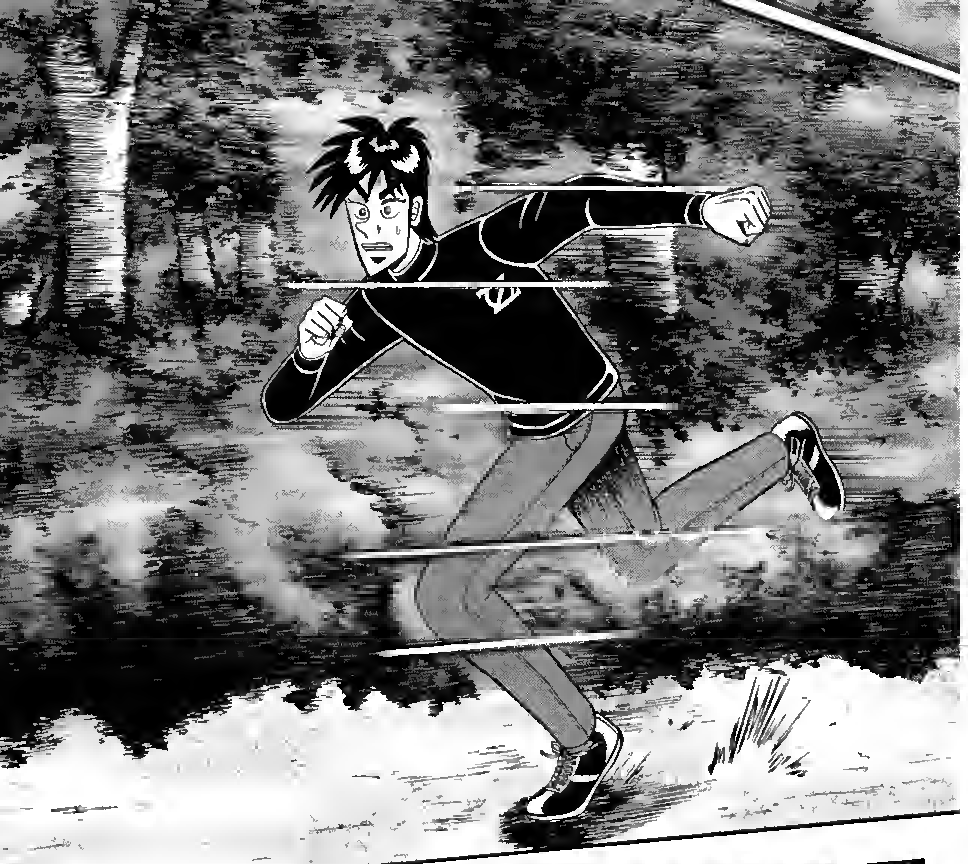
SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT ALL ALONG...?


DAMN!
DAMN,
DAMN,

GAHH!

KILL...
DAMN IT!

I'M TOO LATE!
DAMN IT,
GAHHHH!
AGHHH!
HE'S BEATEN ME TO THE PUNCH AGAIN!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CATCH UP!
I'VE LOST!
GOD DAMN IT!
!
HE'S TOO FAR AHEAD!
ZERO WILL STILL BE WAY AHEAD OF ME!
EVEN IF I START RUNNING NOW,
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
!



ZERO!

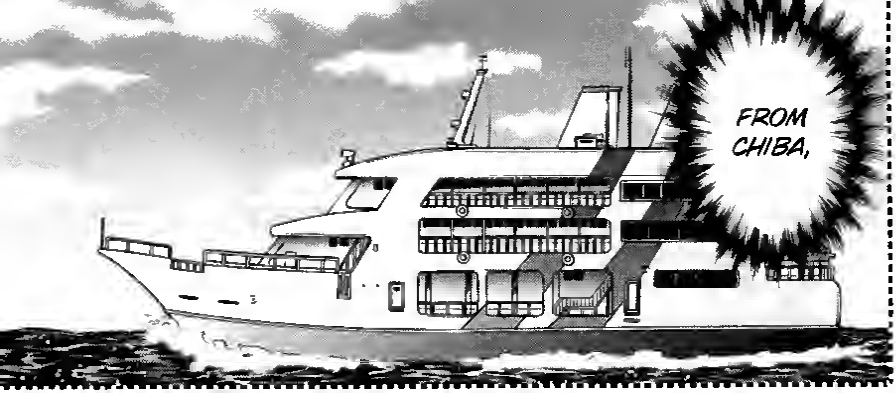
IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW!
UNDER-STAND,
I FINALLY,
HIS MESSAGE!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?

I GOT IT!
ZERO!

W...

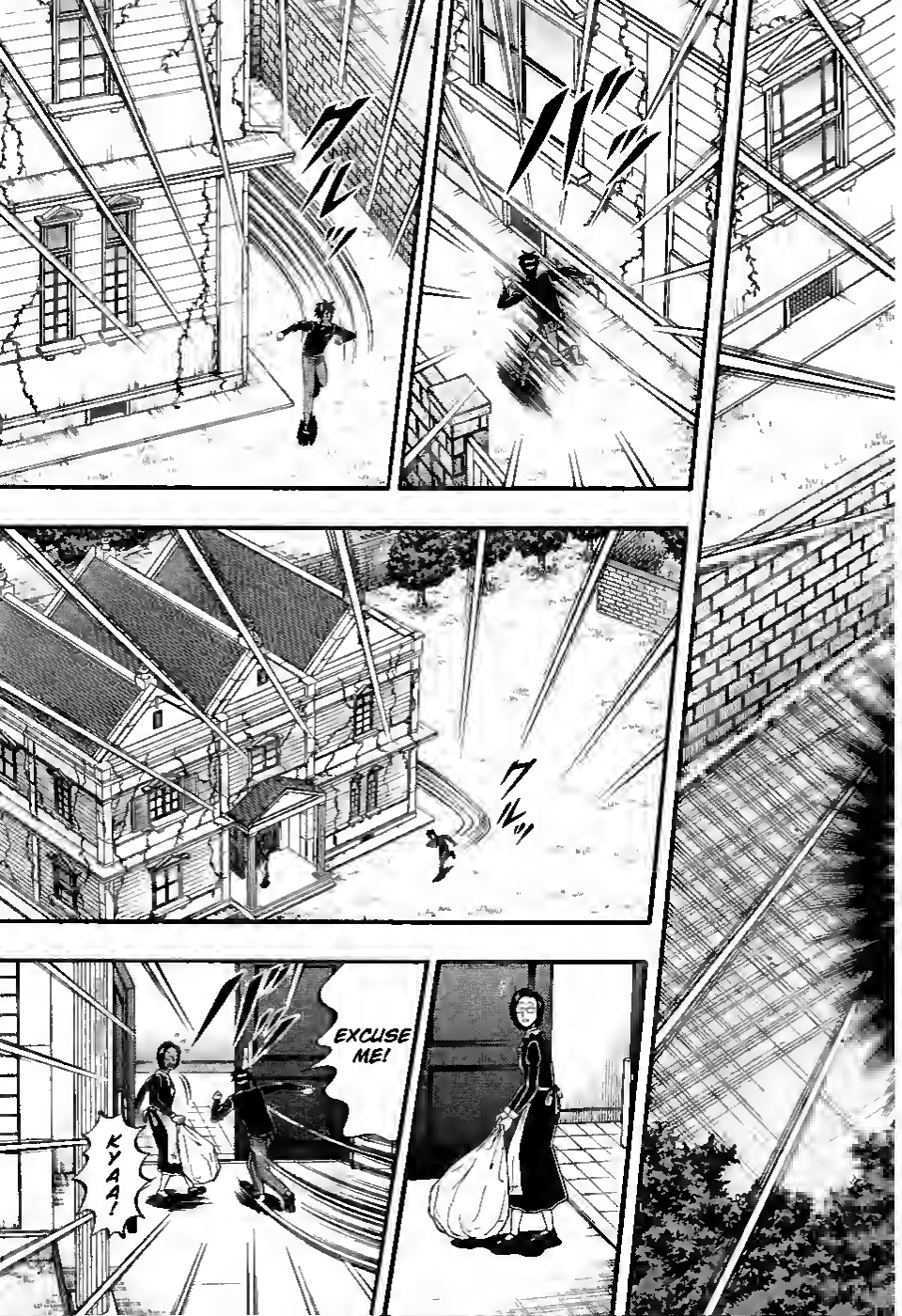
AFTER BEING MISLED,
THIS WAY AND THAT WAY...



ブッダノサイゴノトルマカラスマデ

TO NAGANO!
BUT...
AND TRICKED AGAIN AND AGAIN!
BEING STRUNG ALONG,
ALL THAT'S NOW COME TO AN END...!

I CAN FINALLY SEE THE LIGHT!
THE LIGHT THAT REVEALS,
ARE REALLY HIDDEN...
AND HIS TREASURE ROOM,
AND WHERE KIJUROU,
WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT'S FAKE...
AT LAST...


EXCUSE ME!
KYAA!

THE TRUTH HAS COME TO LIGHT!
I CAN FINALLY MAKE SENSE OF EVERY-THING!

どどっ
WHERE'S ZERO!?
!?
ダダダダー
HM?
H-HE JUST WENT UPST-AIRS

WHA?
ZERO!
IT'S HERE!

UNRAVEL THE...
I CAN FINALLY,
ZERO!
AHH!
ガッ

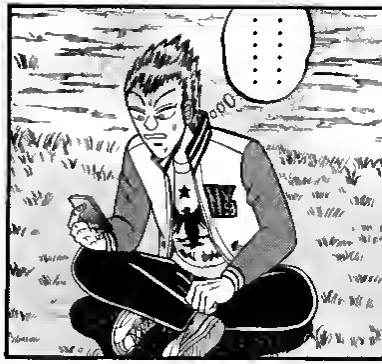
THE ANSWERS,
ARE ALL HERE IN THIS LIBRARY!

WE'VE BEEN BEATEN ...
WE GOT HERE JUST A STEP TOO LATE...
HUH?
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ZERO?

YEAH,
WE BEAT THEM TO THE BOOKS JUST LIKE YOU ASKED.
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU CALLED WHILE WE WERE IN THE HOUSE.
BUT,
.....
JUST HOW'RE THESE BOOKS,
RELATED AT ALL?
I'LL TELL YOU IN PERSON ONCE I'M THERE.
.....
RIGHT... YES,
MEET ME UP IN FRONT OF THE ROOM I SLEPT IN LAST NIGHT.
MAKE SURE TO BRING THE BOOKS.

ピッ…

BUT IS THIS REALLY A WIN FOR ME,
OR IS IT A LOSS INSTEAD ...?


……

IT MUST'VE BEEN TATSUKI.

DAMN IT!

HE MUST HAVE REALIZED IT TOO.

仏陀の最期看取る宝沼で

ブッダノサイゴミトルタカラヌマデ

HE REALIZED THAT THE REAL MESSAGE

HIS TO BE INTERPRETED WITH KATAKANA!

*WRITTEN ABOVE ARE THE TREASURE-SWAMP MESSAGES, ONE WRITTEN IN KANJI AND HIRAGANA, THE OTHER IN KATAKANA

WHA?

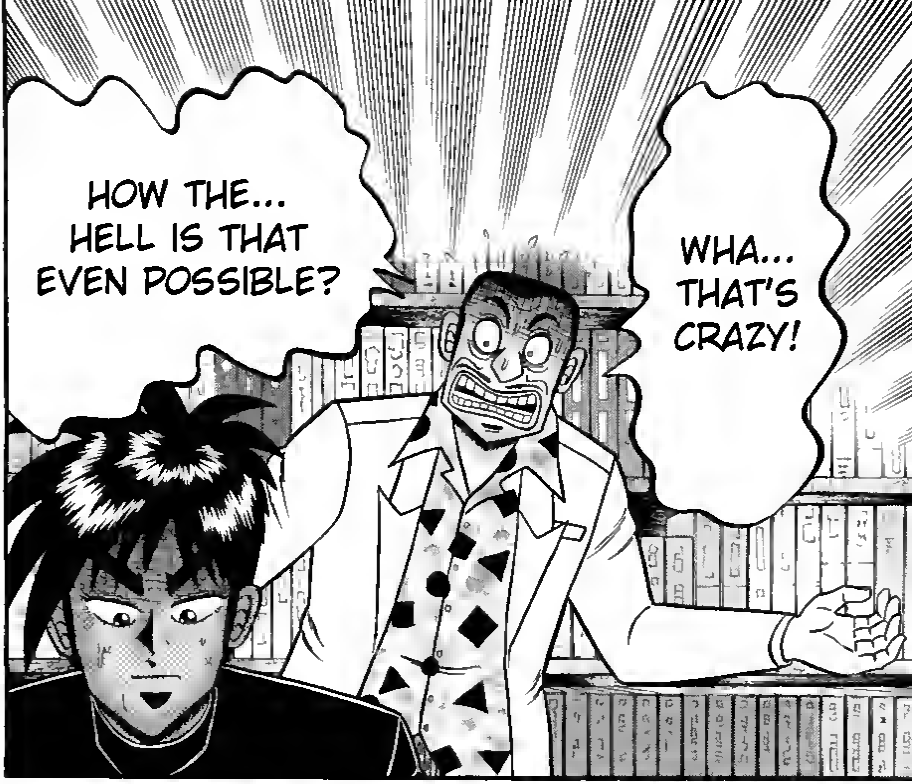
HE TOO UNDERSTOOD

THAT THE "BUDDHA" WE WERE ALL SO HUNG UP OVER,

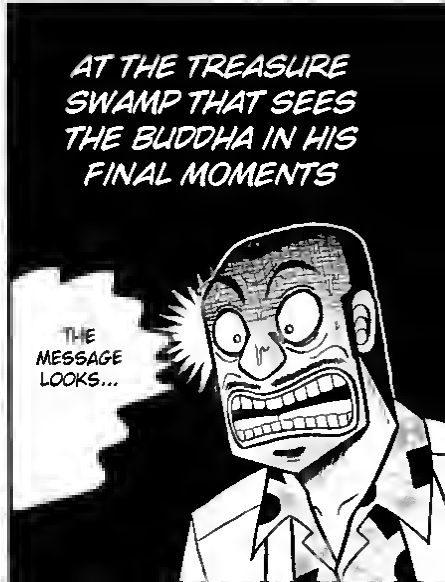
WAS ACTUALLY AN INTERPRETATION ERROR!

ブッダ
サイゴミトル
タカラヌマデ
HIDDEN WITHIN THE MESSAGE
IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MEANING!

Chapter 73 Smokescreen
第73話 煙幕


HOW THE... HELL IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
WHA... THAT'S CRAZY!

PRETTY DAMN CLEAR-CUT TO ME!
SOME PLACE NEAR THE TREASURE SWAMP,
THAT'S CONNECTED TO THE BUDDHA,
IS WHERE THE TREASURE IS!


AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES THE BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS
THE MESSAGE LOOKS...

仏陀の最期看取る宝酒で
ISN'T THE TREASURE SWAMP THE WHOLE REASON,
WHY WE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE,
IN THE FIRST PLACE?
……
YES...
WELL, ZERO!?

ブッダノ サイゴ ミトル タカラヌマデ

I'LL WRITE ON THE BACK.
S-SURE!
HAND ME THAT MAP FOR A MOMENT.
バッ
THE MESSAGE,
IS THIS!
THAT WE'VE ALL BEEN READING,

AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS

仏陀の最期看取る宝沼で

RIGHT?

RIGHT!

HOW ELSE CAN YOU EVEN READ IT?

BUT ALL OF US,

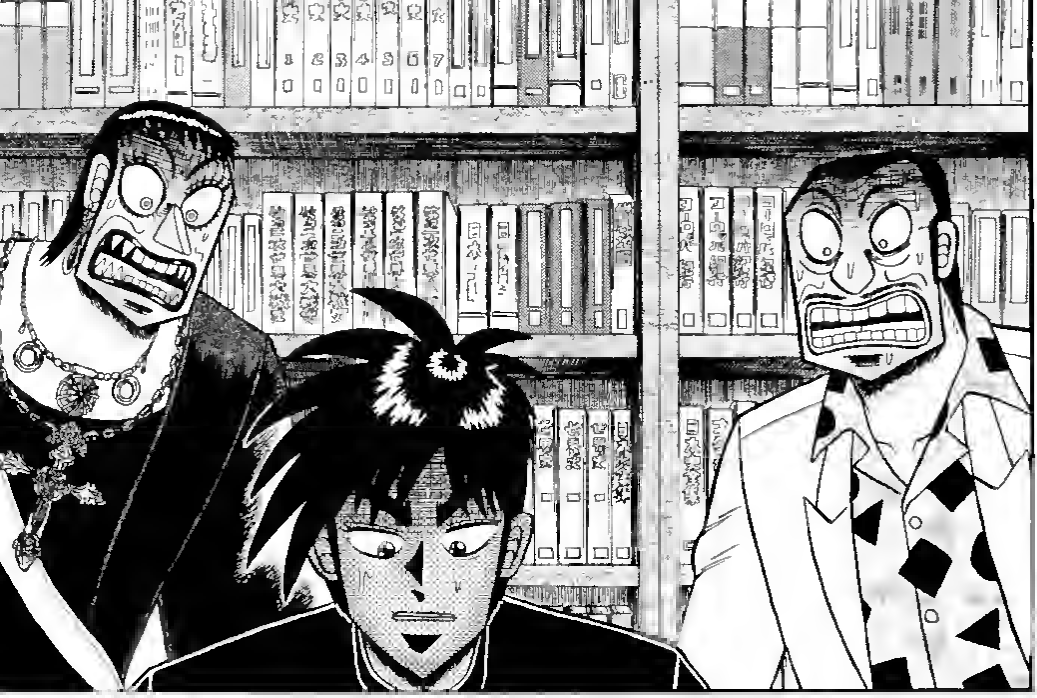
HAVE BEEN MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE!

SINCE THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE,

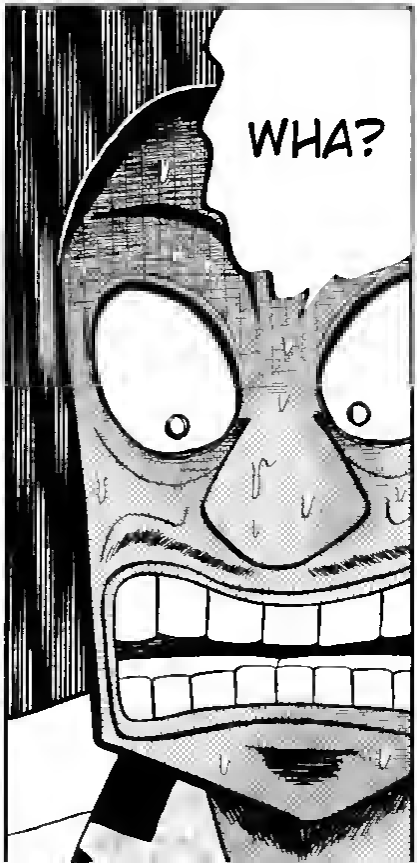
IS THIS!

ブッダノサイゴミトルタカラヌマデ

*SAME MESSAGE BUT WRITTEN IN ONLY KATAKANA

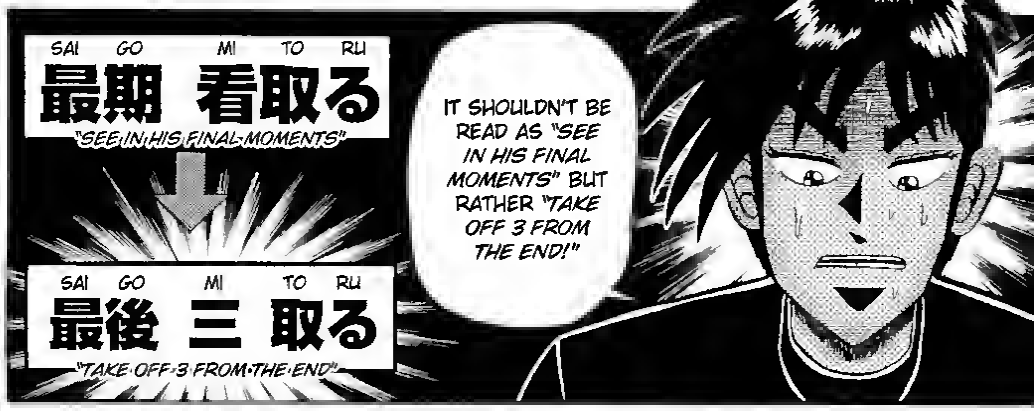


YOU'RE STILL NOT MAKING ANY SENSE HERE, ZERO!
WHO CARES IF THE MESSAGE IS WRITTEN IN KATAKANA OR NOT! IT'S STILL THE SAME!
NOT QUITE!
BECAUSE WHEN YOU WRITE IT IN KATAKANA, YOU CAN GET AN ALTERNATIVE MEANING.
TO BE PRECISE ...


WHA?

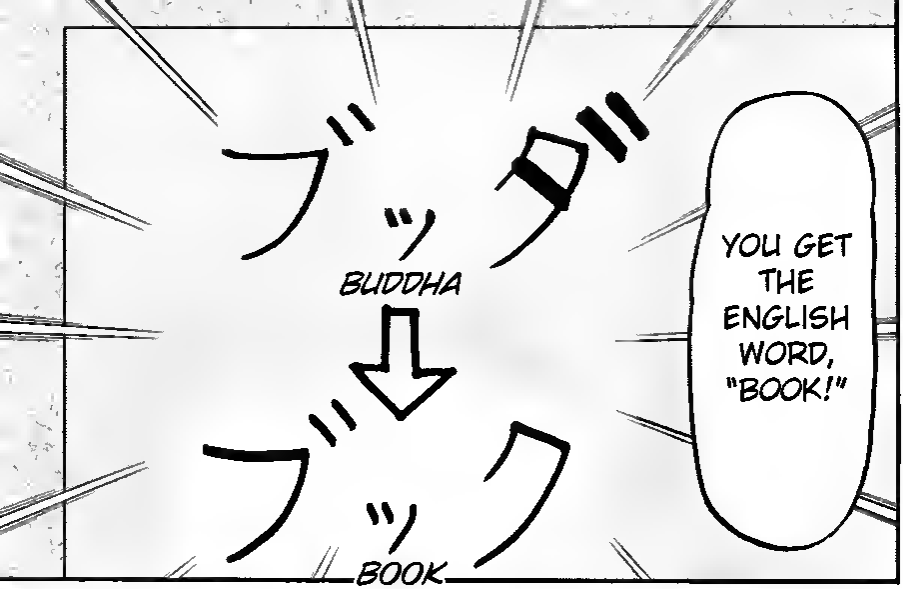
THE FIRST,
IS THE "SEES THE BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENT" PART! (BUDDHA NO SAIGO MITORU)
HERE,
ブッダノ
サイゴ
ミトル
タカラヌマデ
THERE ARE TWO SPOTS IN THIS MESSAGE THAT HIDES ANOTHER MEANING!

*SAIGO = END / FINAL


SAI GO MI TO RU
最期 看取る
"SEE IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS"
SAI GO MI TO RU
最後 三 取る
"TAKE OFF 3 FROM THE END"
IT SHOULDN'T BE READ AS "SEE IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS" BUT RATHER "TAKE OFF 3 FROM THE END!"

I TOLD YOU,
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
FROM THE END OF BUDDHA?
TAKE OFF 3,
THAT... THAT MAKES EVEN LESS SENSE!
IT'S THE KATAKANA BUDDHA!
ブッダ
STOP THINKING OF BUDDHA, AS THE BUDDHA WRITTEN IN KANJI!
NOT QUITE
BUDDHA'S BUDDHA, KANJI OR KATAKANA!
BUT THAT'S THE SAME FREAKIN' THING!
BUT-
HUH?
WHEN YOU WRITE OUT "BUDDHA,"
ブッダ

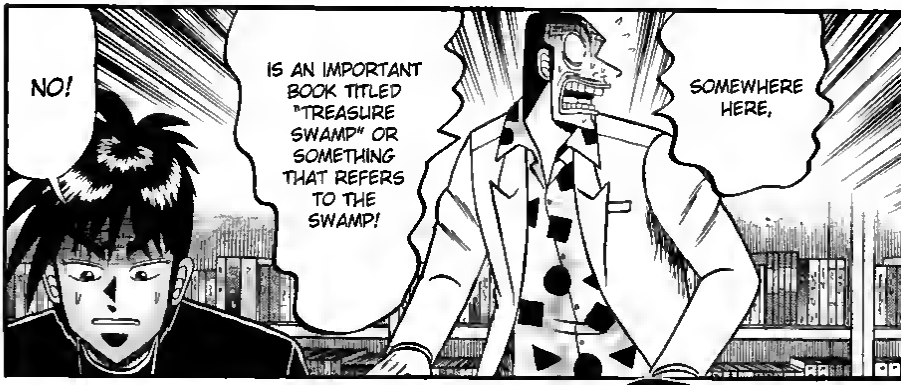
キュ
ブッ
ロル
キュキュ、
IS REFERRING TO THE LAST 3 STROKES!
THE "TAKE OFF 3 FROM THE END,"
IN KATAKANA YOURSELF. YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND
YOU GET THIS!
SO IF YOU DO AS THE MESSAGE INSTRUCTS,
WHA?
AH...
AH!


ブッダ
BUDDHA
ブック
BOOK
YOU GET THE ENGLISH WORD, "BOOK!"

W-WHAT THE...
AH!

THE BOOKS IN THIS LIBRARY!
YES,
B-BY BOOK, DOES IT MEAN...
THEN,

IN SHORT,
SO THAT'S WHY YOU RUSHED OVER HERE TO THE LIBRARY!
I GET IT NOW!
THAT'S WHAT KIJUROU WAS REFERRING TO ALL ALONG!


NO!
IS AN IMPORTANT BOOK TITLED "TREASURE SWAMP" OR SOMETHING THAT REFERS TO THE SWAMP!
SOMEWHERE HERE,

IT'S NOT THE TREASURE SWAMP.
WHA?

WHA?
IT'S SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.
NOT THE TREASURE SWAMP?
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
HOW COULD IT BE ANYTHING BUT THE TREASURE SWAMP!?
THIS IS THE VERY SWAMP THAT HOLDS INCOMPARABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE HOJO FAMILY!
IT WAS AN UNFOR-GETTABLE DAY IN THEIR LIVES,
BUT WAS RESCUED IN THE NICK OF TIME,
THANKS TO HIS FAMILY WORKING TOGETHER!
IT'S THE SWAMP THAT KIJUROU ALMOST DROWNED IN,
THAT TESTED THEIR FAMILY BONDS,
AND SHOWED WHAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT IN LIFE!

IT'S THE LEGENDARY SWAMP!
IT'S PRECISELY THAT STORY,

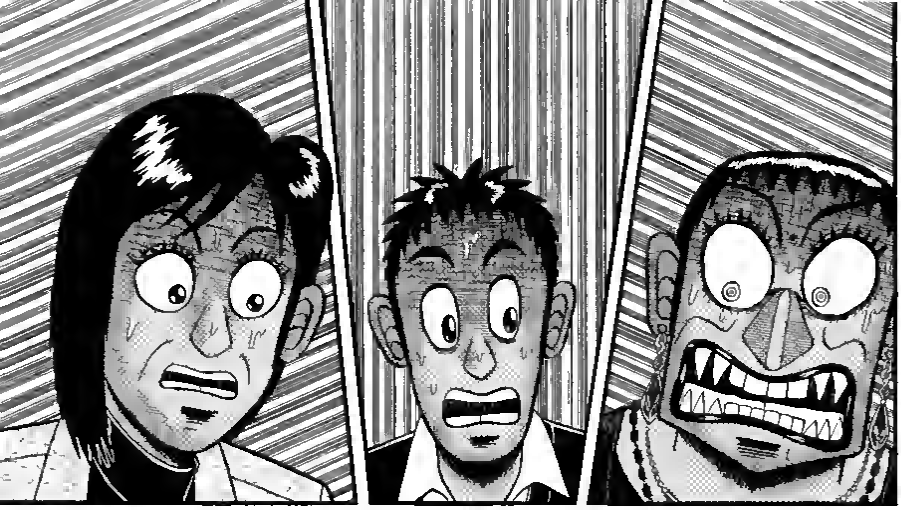
THAT COLOURED OUR PRECONCEPTIONS,

I'LL WRITE IT OUT!
HUH?

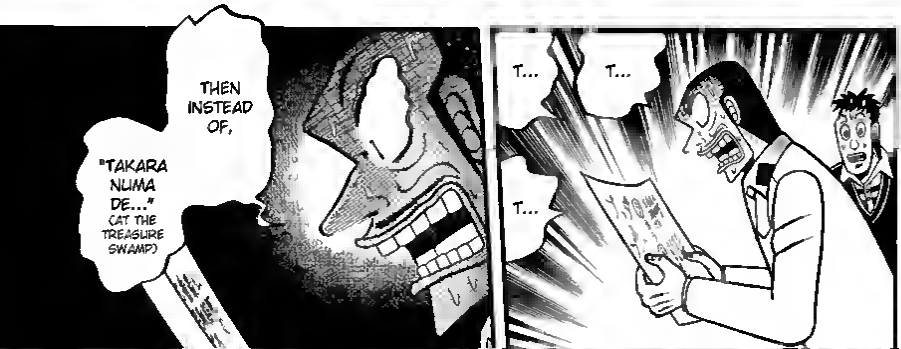
TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE!
AND CAUSED US,

?
?
?
HERE!
HUH?

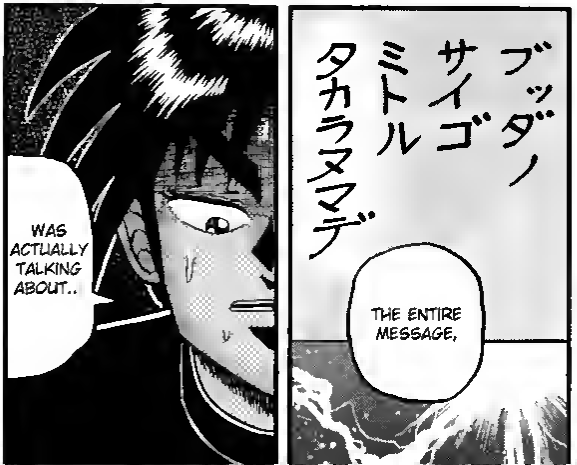
ビビッ
WHAAAAA?
WHAT IS IT!?
WHAT?
ME TOO!
LET ME SEE!



WHAAAAA?


THEN INSTEAD OF,
"TAKARA NUMA DE..."
(AT THE TREASURE SWAMP)
T...
T...
T...

*TAKARA NUMA DE = AT THE TREASURE SWAMP
*TA KARA NU MADE = FROM TA TO NU



THE BOOKS WITH THE TITLES BEGINNING FROM "TA" TO "NU" HERE IN THIS LIBRARY ACCORDING TO ALPHABETICAL ORDER!
AHH!

SO THE SECRET LIES WITH THE BOOKS HERE!?
AHH!

TA...
TA...
GOTTA FIND "TA" FIRST THEN...
FROM TA TO NU...
AHH!
ネコの暮らし
な
THE FIRST OF WHICH BEGINS WITH "NE,"
WHICH MEANS
ONLY HAS BOOKS AGAIN FROM NA.
AH!
THE SHELF.
THEY'RE NOT HERE!
THEY'RE ...
THERE AREN'T ANY BOOKS!

THERE ARE NO BOOKS FROM TA TO NU!
THEY'RE ALL GONE!
ZERO!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S TATSUKI.
HUH?
WELL?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
BEFORE WE COULD GET TO THEM...
WHO TOOK OUT ALL THE BOOKS FROM TA TO NU,
AND USED HIS CELL PHONE TO CALL HIS DAD,
HE MUST'VE FIGURED OUT THE REAL MEANING OF THE MESSAGE SOON AFTER WE LEFT,

WHA!
BUT WE WERE THE ONE WHO FIGURED IT OUT FIRST!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
WHAT THE HELL!
.....
ZERO!

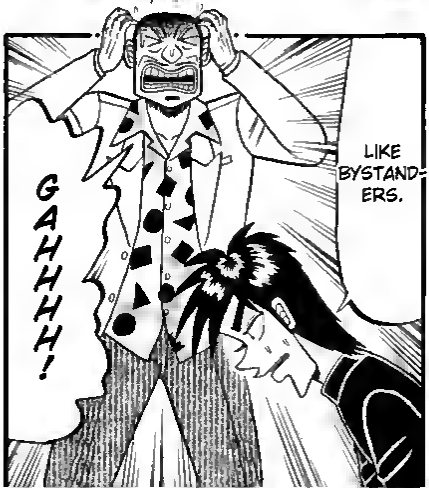
Chapter 74 Mark
第74話 目印
THERE...
THERE AREN'T ANY BOOKS!
ソメイヨシノ紀行
な
W-WHAT DO WE DO NOW,
ZERO!?

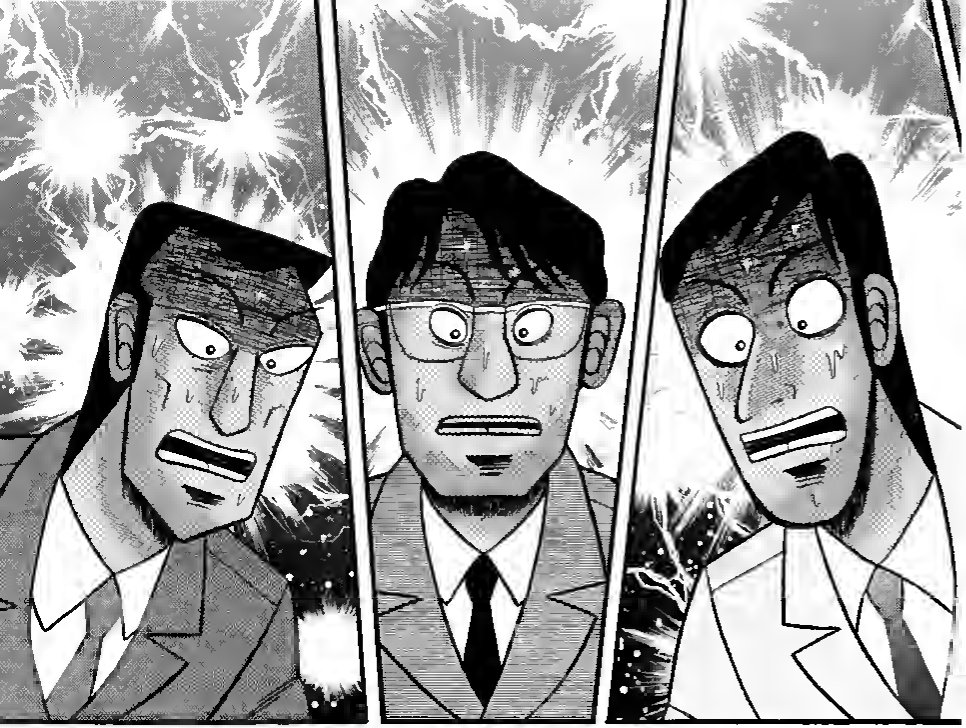
THOSE BOOKS FROM TA TO NU SHOULD TELL US THE LOCATION OF THE TREASURE!
ACCORDING TO YOUR THEORY,
OR MORE ACCURATELY...
THAT'S RIGHT...
WHERE KIJUROU IS LOCKED UP RIGHT NOW!
WHA!
IT'S THE END OF THE LINE FOR US.
IT'S OVER.
IF THE PRESIDENT'S GOT A HOLD OF THAT, THEN...

IT CAN'T BE! NOT AFTER WE CAME SO FAR!
WELL,
THE ONLY THING WE COULD ACTUALLY DO,
IS TO TAIL TATSUKI AND THE PRESIDENT,
AND WAIT FOR FUTURE DEVELOP-MENTS.
BUT,

SINCE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE THOSE BOOKS,
ALL WE'D REALLY BE DOING,
IS WALKING BESIDE THEM.

The Presi-dent's Resort House


GAHHHH!
LIKE BYSTAND-ERS.



YES.
AND WHERE GRANDPA IS RIGHT NOW!?
YES.
IS THE LOCATION OF THE TREASURE!?

YOU'RE SAYING...
Y-
THAT HIDDEN INSIDE THESE BOOKS...
ざわ
WHAT?

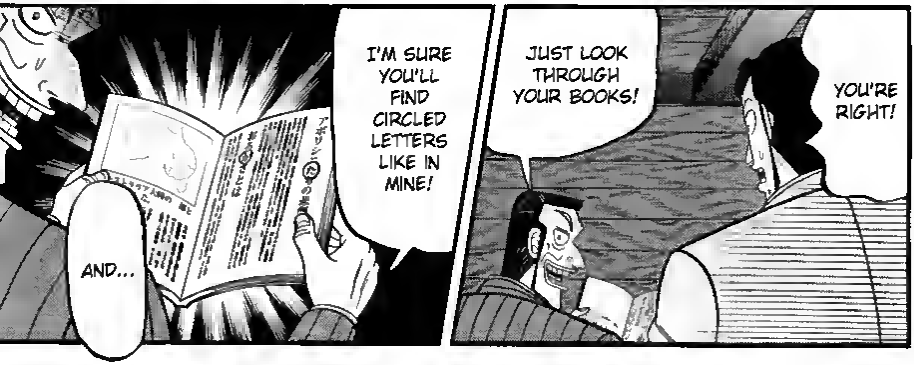
AND I DON'T THINK THERE WILL BE ANY MORE,
YES.
SERI-OUSLY!?
ELABORATE TRICKS AND CODES LEFT FOR US TO SOLVE IN THESE BOOKS.

THEN LET'S GET STARTED! I'LL START AT TA,
GREAT!
OHH!
IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH FOR ANYONE TO FIND THE MESSAGE SIMPLY BY BROWSING THROUGH THEM.
YES, SIR!
YOU! TAKE THIS BOOK!
WITH THIS BOOK CALLED "TASMANIA'S HOPE!"

. . . . .
COME ON, TATSUKI! YOU TOO!
AND GET SEARCHING!
THE REST OF YOU GRAB A BOOK TOO,
YES, SIR!
YOU CAN TAKE THE LAST OF THE Ts WITH "TO!"
TONARI NO TONAKAI! (THE REINDEER CLOSE BY)
YES, SIR!
. . . . .
YES, SIR!
ALRIGHT! LET'S FIGURE OUT WHERE THE TREASURE IS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
MARK... MARK...
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME SORT OF MARK
LET'S SEE ..

AGHH!
アボリジニたちの悲劇
おろかなことは
オーストラリア人№1の一部と
考えられていた。
I FOUND IT!
YOU DID, SIR!?
LOOK!

JUST FROM THIS BOOK ALONE, I ALREADY FOUND 3 CIRCLED LETTERS WHICH SPELL OUT "TREA-SURE!"
AHHH!


YOU'RE RIGHT!
JUST LOOK THROUGH YOUR BOOKS!
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND CIRCLED LETTERS LIKE IN MINE!
AND...

ONCE WE FIND ALL THE CIRCLED LETTERS,
PLACED THROUGHOUT THESE 7 BOOKS,
FROM TA TO NU...

I'M SURE IT'LL SPELL OUT THE FINAL MESSAGE!
OHHH!
LET'S SEE IF THERE ARE STILL MORE LEFT IN MY BOOK!
YES, LET'S!
LET'S DO IT!
A LIKELY THEORY, SIR!

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT...
COMPLICATED TRICKS...
THERE AREN'T ANY,
I FOUND ANOTHER MARK...
AHH!
AN "A," HUH...

THE NEXT IS "RI"...
HUH?
A PIECE OF PAPER?

A "HA!"
I FOUND ONE TOO!
THERE'S A "KO" IN MY BOOK!
I FOUND A "NI!"
AH!
I FOUND A "U!"
AHH!

30 Minutes Later...
ALRIGHT, LET'S SPELL THEM OUT IN ORDER!

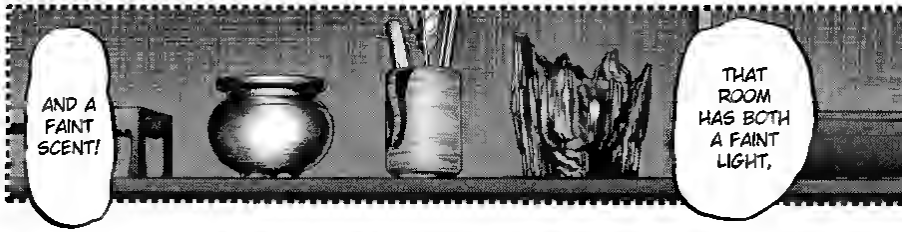
YES, SIR!
IS THE "HA" FROM THE "CHOCOLATE DOCTRINE!"
NEXT,
TA, KA, RA!
WE'LL START WITH MY LETTERS!
FOLL-OWED BY "KO"...
NEXT IS THE "BI" THAT NISHIMURA FOUND,

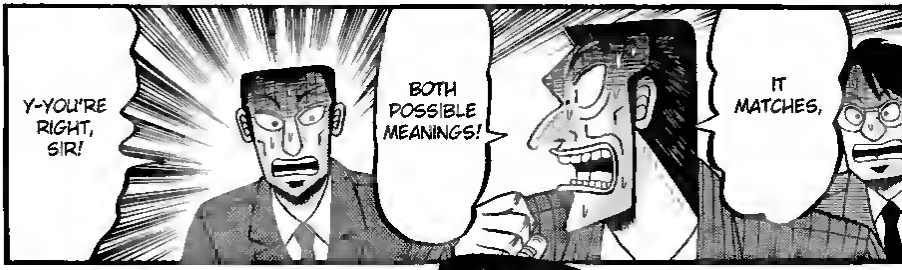
HASHI-ZUME FOUND A "U,"
AND A "NI,"
WITH THE LAST TWO WORDS BEING "A" AND "RI," WHICH TAT-SUKI FOUND.
THAT SPELLS OUT...
AHH!
AHH!

*BIKOU: A WORD WITH MANY, MANY MEANINGS DEPENDING ON ITS KANJI-SPELLINGS

BIKOU... BIKOU... HMM, JUST MAYBE...
I, UHH...
W-WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
う～～～ん
. . . .
OR MAYBE "FAINT SCENT?"
BIKOU AS IN "FAINT LIGHT?"
AHH!

COULD IT BE REFERRING TO THE INCENSE ROOM!?


AND A FAINT SCENT!
THAT ROOM HAS BOTH A FAINT LIGHT,


Y-YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR!
BOTH POSSIBLE MEANINGS!
IT MATCHES,

WELL, TATSUKI? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

GOOD!
IT DOES FIT THE MESSAGE IN A WAY...
I GUESS...
.....
YES, SIR!
LET'S GET SEARCHING!
YES, WE'RE DIRECTOR OKAJIMA'S ASSISTANTS.
YOU'RE...
WHA?

WE HEARD FROM MANAGER KAGEYAMA,
THAT YOU MAY HAVE FIGURED OUT THE WHERE PRESIDENT KIJUROU IS CONFINED...
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO HELP OUT?
HUH?
COULD YOU ALLOW US TO HELP OUT IN RESCUING PRESIDENT KIJUROU AS WELL?
DON'T BE STUPID!
THAT'S ABSURD!
DID YOU FORGET THIS IS ALSO A COMPETI-TION?
ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO'VE FIGURED OUT THE MESSAGE HAVE THAT RIGHT!
SO SCRAM!
WE REFUSE!

NO!
PLEASE ALLOW US TO ASSIST, SIR!
HUH?
HUH?
WHERE'S DIRECTOR OKAJIMA?
UMM...
WHA?
HE SUDDENLY WENT MISSING AND WE HAVEN'T BEEN able TO CONTACT HIM ON HIS PHONE EITHER...
JUST WHEN WE HEARD THAT YOU MAY HAVE DETERMINED PRESIDENT KIJUROU'S LOCATION,
WELL...
HIS CELL PHONE WON'T PICK UP...?
たからびこうらにはありこう
THE TREASURE IS AT THE "BIKOU"

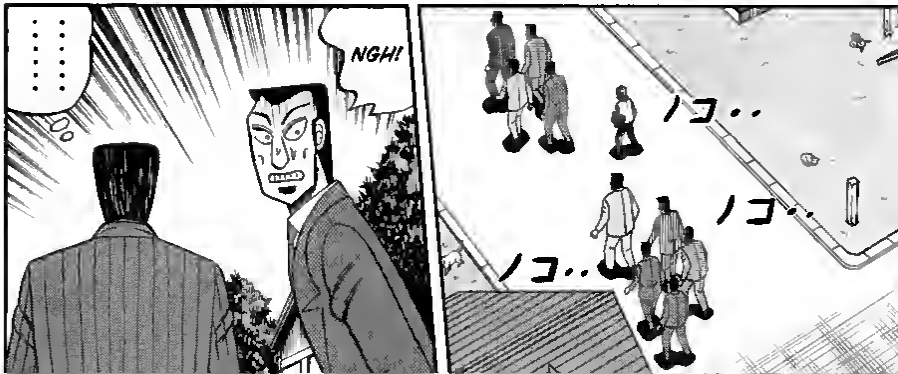
IS IN "FAINT LIGHT" ...!?
THE TREASURE...
COULD IT BE...!?
AH!
!
JUST MAYBE...!
JUST MAYBE...

THE TREASURE IS AT "BIKOU"

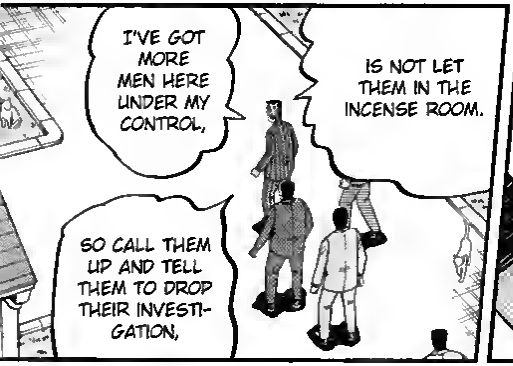
Chapter 75 Suspicion

THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE A RIGHT TO SEARCH FOR THE TREASURE,
ARE THOSE WHO'VE SOLVED THE MYSTERY!
THAT WAS THE AGREE-MENT FROM THE START!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING A COMPETI-TION OTH-ERWISE!?

NOW GO AWAY!
AND DON'T FOLLOW US!

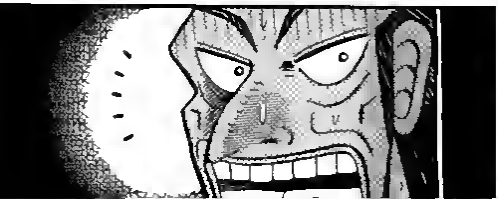

NGH!
.....
ノコ..
ノコ..
ノコ..

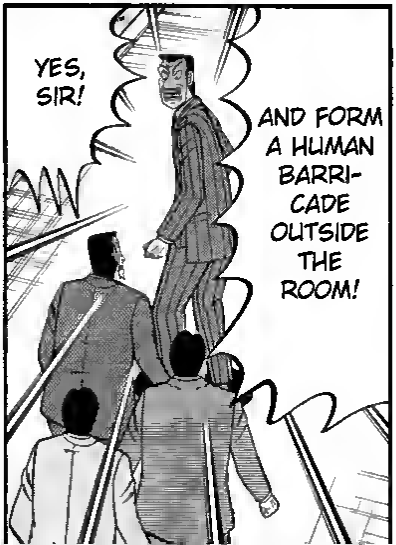
JUST IGNORE THEM!
TSUNA-KAWA!
HEY! DIDN'T THE PRESIDENT TELL YOU NOT TO FOLLOW US!?


I'VE GOT MORE MEN HERE UNDER MY CONTROL,
IS NOT LET THEM IN THE INCENSE ROOM.
SO CALL THEM UP AND TELL THEM TO DROP THEIR INVESTI-GATION,

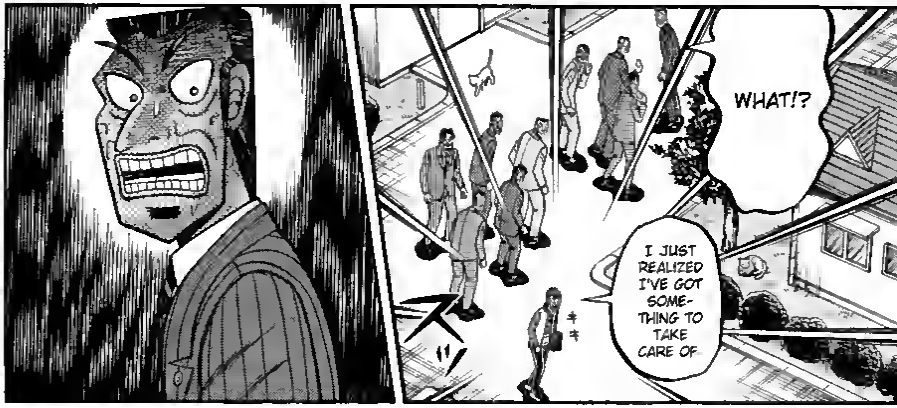
ALL WE HAVE TO DO,
BUT...!

WE'LL START CALLING THEM UP RIGHT AWAY.

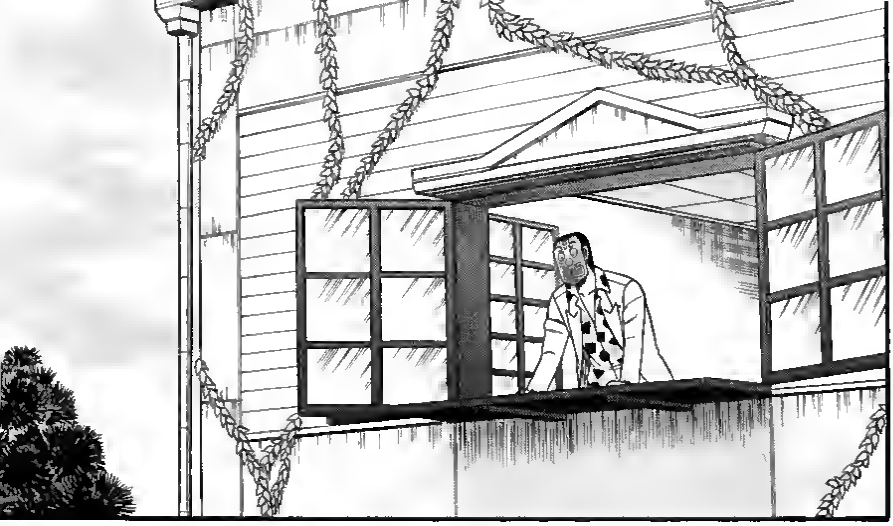



YES, SIR!
AND FORM A HUMAN BARRI-CADE OUTSIDE THE ROOM!

POPS,
YOU SEEM TO BE ODDLY SPACING OUT.
I'M GONNA GO OFF ON MY OWN NOW.
WHAT'S WRONG, TATSUKI?
HUH?


WHAT!?
I JUST REALIZED I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF.

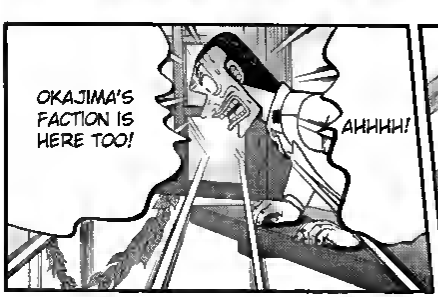
WHAT THE...
AT THIS CRITICAL TIME...!?
SOMETHING ELSE TO TAKE CARE OF?
WHA?

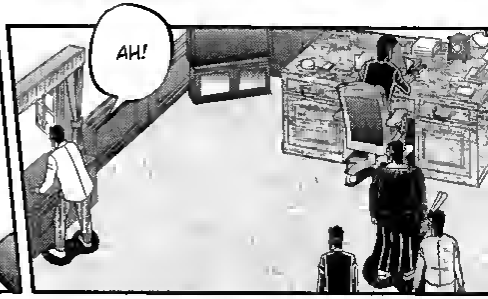


ZERO!
THERE'S A HUGE CROWD OUTSIDE!
HUH?

AND JUST LIKE YOU PRE-DICTED...
THE PRESIDENT'S FACTION IS GATHERING!
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID!

VISIBLE FROM THE STUDY!
THEY SEEM TO BE GATHERING AROUND ONE OF THE 4 SHACKS,
ONE OF THEM MUST REALLY BE THE TREASURE ROOM!


OKAJIMA'S FACTION IS HERE TOO!
AHHHH!


AH!

ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER!
BUT THEY'RE...
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO JOIN IN ON THE SEARCH TOO!

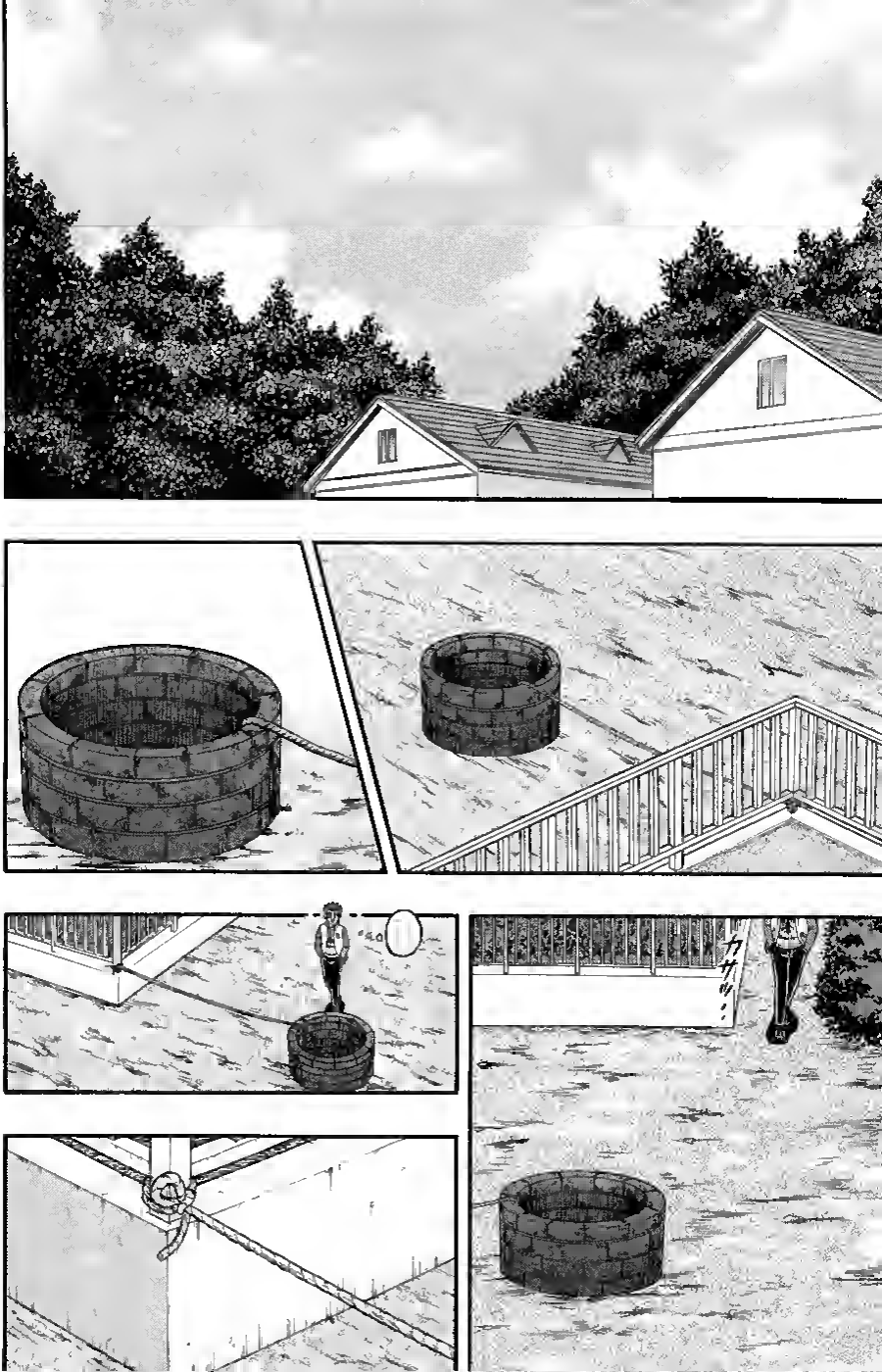
ALRIGHT!
COME ON, ZERO! LET'S GET OUT THERE,
AND CONVINCE THEM TO INCLUDE US TOO!
SUEZAKI.
THERE'S NO WAY THE PRESIDENT WOULD ALLOW US.
ESPECIALLY IF HE'S NOT EVEN LETTING OKAJIMA'S FACTION HELP OUT.
IT'S PLAIN IMPOSSIBLE FOR US...
DON'T GIVE UP ALL HOPE JUST YET, ZERO!
TATSUKI'S OUR BEST HOPE. .

DON'T BE STUPID!
IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S FIRST OR SECOND IN SOLVING THE SECRET...
AS LONG AS KIJUROU IS SAVED,
HUH?
WE WON'T GET PAID IF WE'RE SECOND!
SO WE CAN WHEEDLE OUT 300 OR EVEN JUST 100 MILLION AS RIGHTFUL COMPENSATION...
AND THEN POINT OUT HOW MUCH WE CONTRIBUTED IN THE JOURNEY UP TO HERE,
SUEZAKI
IS SQUEEZE OURSELVES INTO THAT "TEARFUL RESCUE SCENE,"
WHAT WE GOTTA DO NOW,

プル…
プル…
プル…
プル!!
NO!
LET'S JUST GIVE UP ON THAT.
I'M GOING TO CONVINCE THE PRESIDENT NO MATTER WHAT!
NOOOOO!
ZERO
HAHA.
I HAVE TO SAY,
I AM STILL QUITE CURIOUS WHICH ROOM IS THE ONE...

SURE IS QUITE THE FUSS OUTSIDE.
BOTH FACTIONS SEEM TO BE LOCKED,
IN A HEATED STRUGGLE,
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T SEE TATSUKI.
AND THAT'S NOT IT EITHER.

COULD IT... COULD IT POSSIBLY BE...!?



HM?
キキ
YOU'RE HERE, JUST AS I EXPECTED...!

DIRECTOR OKAJIMA!

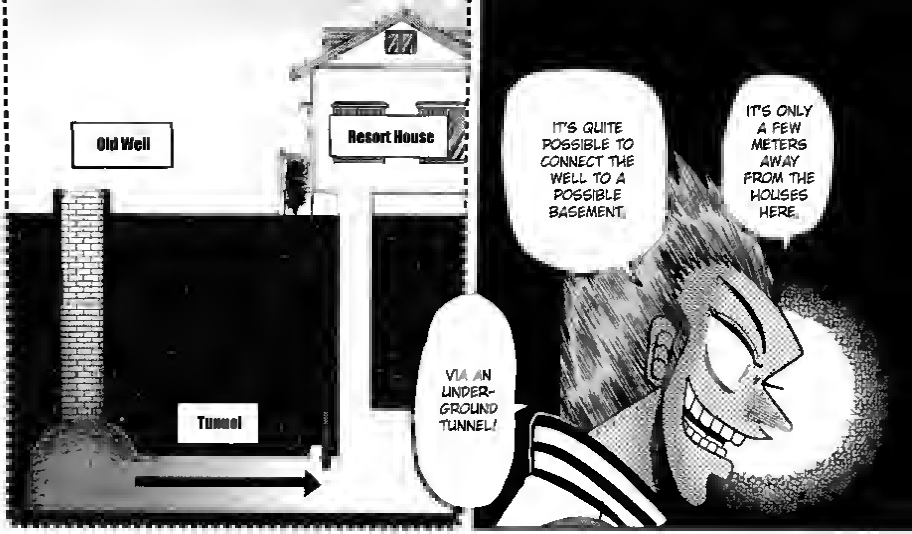
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, TATSUKI!?
I FELT THAT SOME-THING WAS OFF.
EVER SINCE THAT MOMENT ...

AGHH!
W-

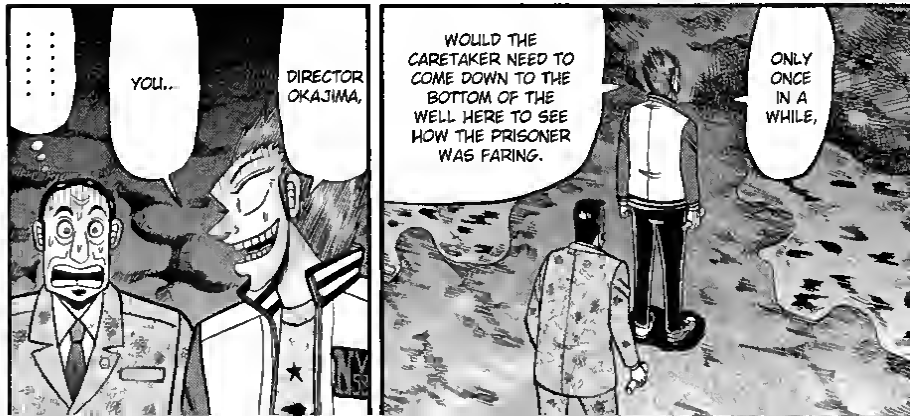
YES, THAT WAS QUITE EMBARRASSING FOR ME...
O-OH THAT?
HARDLY
WHEN YOU CAUSED A BIG PANIC FROM GETTING STUCK IN THIS OLD WELL!
BACK THEN,
WHA?
THAT WAS INTENTIONAL, WASN'T IT?
SO THAT ONCE YOU TOLD THEM YOU GOT STUCK INVESTIGATING THIS WELL,
YOU'D IMPLANT THE IDEA THAT YOU DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING HERE.
THAT WAS REALLY JUST A PLAN TO MAKE A BIG FUSS TO DRAW EVERYONE'S ATTENTION,
WHICH CAUSED YOU TO GET STUCK HERE,
YOU TOLD EVERYONE THAT THE ROPE FELL WHEN YOU TUGGED ON IT,
BE I,

DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE
AFTER ALL,
THE IDEA OF SOMEONE BEING CONFINED AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS WELL FOR 3 YEARS IS...
OF COURSE,
WHA!?
BUT ONE THAT'S SMACK-DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS RESORT TOWN.
IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE,
THIS ISN'T AN OLD WELL THAT'S OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE,
THAT'S WHY...
WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED BY SOMEONE ELSE IN TOWN.
FOR THE PAST 3 WHOLE YEARS TO BRING FOOD TO THE CAPTIVE,
AND LOWER HIMSELF DOWN THE WELL EVERYDAY,
FOR SOMEONE TO USE A ROPE,

THIS WELL IS A BLANK SPOT!
IT'S ONLY NORMAL FOR SOMEONE TO NOT EXPECT,
AN UNDER-GROUND ROOM DOWN HERE.
BUT IN REALITY,
IT'S THE OPPOSITE!
WHA?
DUE TO THIS WELL'S PROXIMITY TO THE RESORT HOUSES,
IT'S ACTUALLY THE IDEAL SPOT!
WHA?
SINCE...


Old Well
Resort House
Tunnel
VIA AN UNDER-GROUND TUNNEL!
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE TO CONNECT THE WELL TO A POSSIBLE BASEMENT.
IT'S ONLY A FEW METERS AWAY FROM THE HOUSES HERE.

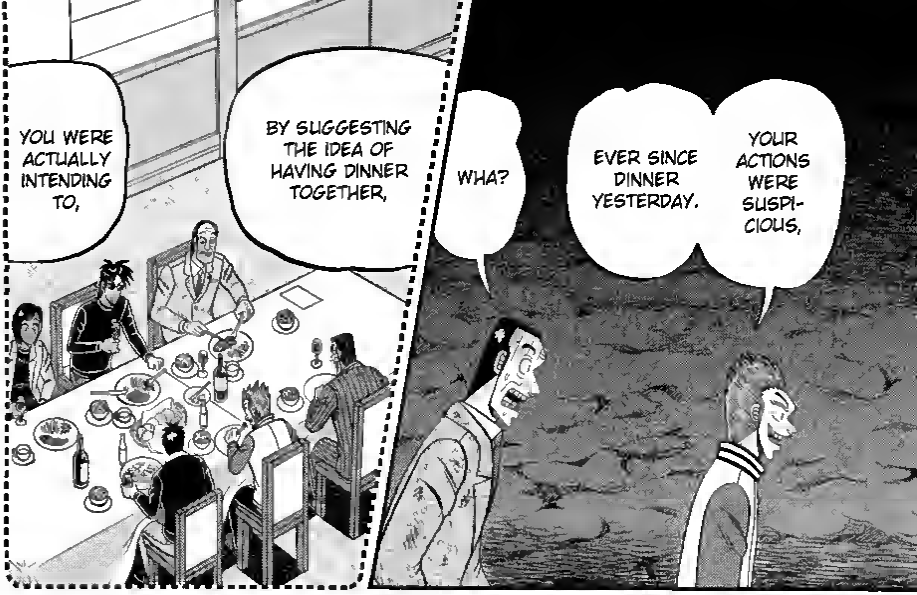
WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED BY ANYONE.
AND,
SO A PERSON COULD LOWER THE FOOD,
FROM INSIDE A NEARBY HOUSE,

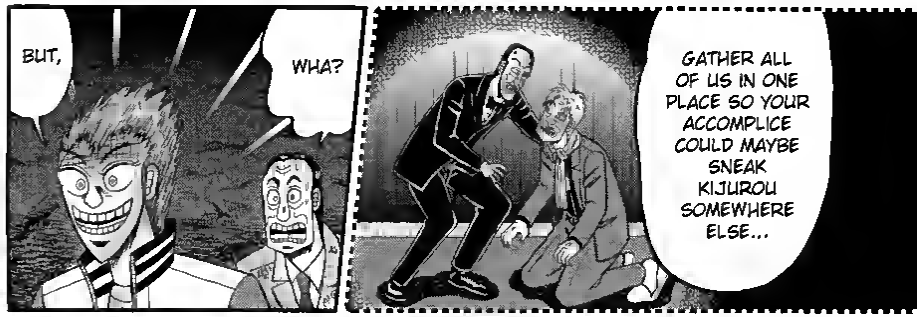

. . . . . .
YOU..
DIRECTOR OKAJIMA,
WOULD THE CARETAKER NEED TO COME DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL HERE TO SEE HOW THE PRISONER WAS FARING.
ONLY ONCE IN A WHILE,

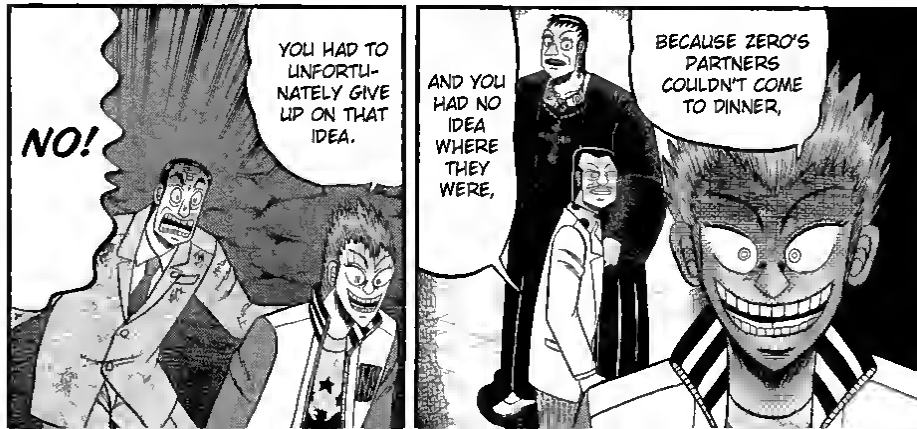
FEARED SOMEONE MIGHT COME TO THE SAME IDEA AS I JUST DID,
AND SO YOU PERSONALLY CAME DOWN HERE,
CAUSE A BIG FUSS, ONLY TO SAY THAT YOU DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING WORTH NOTHING DOWN HERE.
AM I RIGHT...?
HUH?
JUST WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO S...
3 YEARS AGO,
THE ONE WHO FIGURED OUT KIJUROU'S SECRET TREASURE ROOM,
W...
WHAT WHAT WHAT!?
AND LATER,
CONFINED HIM IN THAT VERY SAME ROOM,
IS,
NONE OTHER THAN...

YOU, DIRECTOR OKAJIMA!
WHA?!

Chapter 76 Agitation
第76話 騒動
WHA?
ME? THE CRIMINAL?
THE ONE WHO LOCKED UP THE FORMER PRESIDENT FOR YEARS!?
THAT'S RIGHT.
T-THAT'S RIDICULOUS! WHAT KIND OF EVIDENCE DO YOU EVEN HAVE!?
THINKING BACK NOW...


YOU WERE ACTUALLY INTENDING TO,
BY SUGGESTING THE IDEA OF HAVING DINNER TOGETHER,
WHA?
EVER SINCE DINNER YESTERDAY.
YOUR ACTIONS WERE SUSPI-CIOUS,

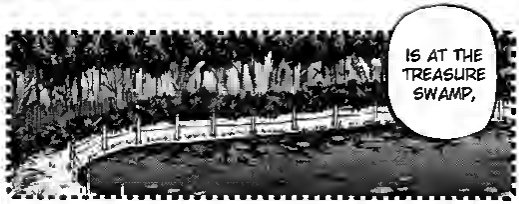

BUT,
WHA?
GATHER ALL OF US IN ONE PLACE SO YOUR ACCOMPLICE COULD MAYBE SNEAK KIJUROU SOMEWHERE ELSE...

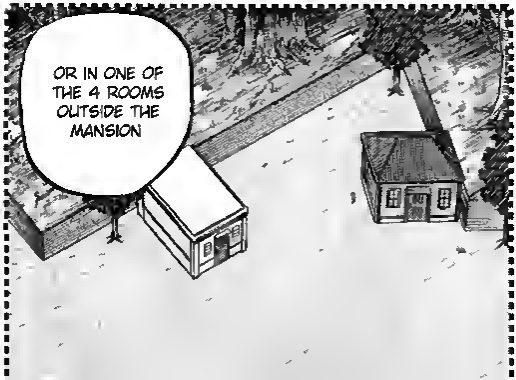

NO!
YOU HAD TO UNFORTU-NATELY GIVE UP ON THAT IDEA.
AND YOU HAD NO IDEA WHERE THEY WERE,
BECAUSE ZERO'S PARTNERS COULDN'T COME TO DINNER,

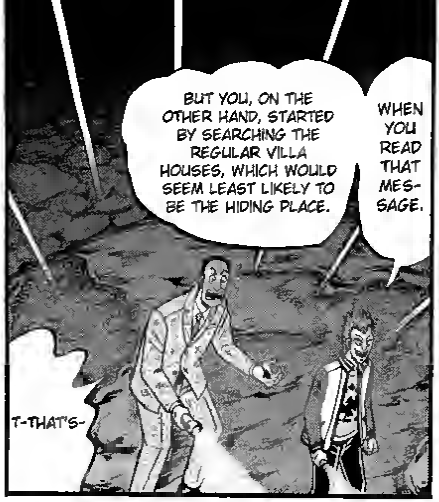
YOU STARTED YOUR SEARCH WITH THE RESORT HOUSES, BUT WHY?
NOT ONLY THAT,
THAT WAS HONESTLY A SUGGESTION TO HAVE THE HOJO FAMILY ENJOY A REAL FAMILY DINNER FOR ONCE!

ONE SHOULD THINK THAT THE TREASURE ROOM,
NORMALLY,
HUH?

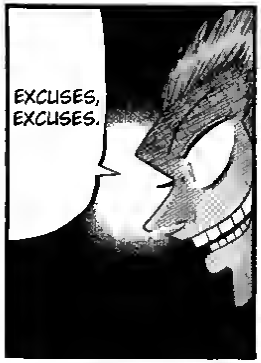
FELL INTO THAT TRAP.
I AND THE OTHERS,

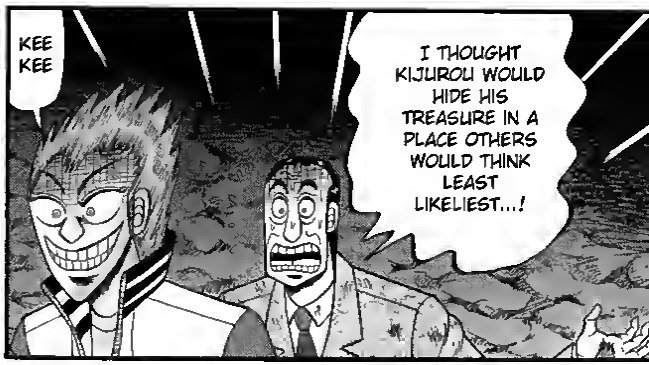

IS AT THE TREASURE SWAMP,

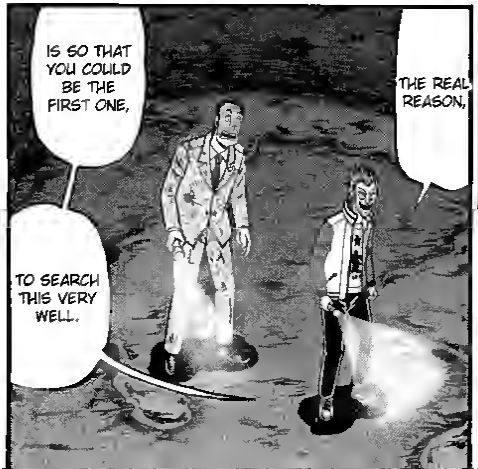

OR IN ONE OF THE 4 ROOMS OUTSIDE THE MANSION


T-THAT'S-
BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, STARTED BY SEARCHING THE REGULAR VILLA HOUSES, WHICH WOULD SEEM LEAST LIKELY TO BE THE HIDING PLACE.
WHEN YOU READ THAT MESSAGE.

AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS
IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO DO SO, AFTER ALL,


EXCUSES, EXCUSES.


KEE KEE
I THOUGHT KIJUROU WOULD HIDE HIS TREASURE IN A PLACE OTHERS WOULD THINK LEAST LIKELIEST...!


IS SO THAT YOU COULD BE THE FIRST ONE,
THE REAL REASON,
TO SEARCH THIS VERY WELL.

THAT'S NOT THE REASON.
NO,

SO THAT YOU COULD DRAW EVERYONE'S ATTENTION,
AND THEN CLAIM THERE WASN'T ANYTHING DOWN BELOW!
AGH!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
THAT'S NOT...
NOOO!

I SWEAR I'M INNO-
THIS IS ALL JUST A HUGE MISUNDER-STANDING!
THERE'S A HUGE FUSS OUTSIDE RIGHT NOW.

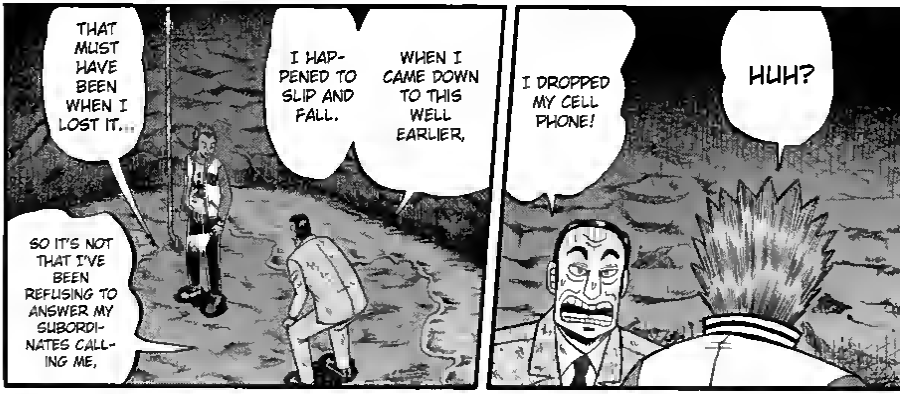
WHA?
NATURALLY, AN UPROAR RESULTED WHEN THIS NEW MES-SAGE WAS FOUND.
THE NEW MESSAGE DIRECTLY STATES...
THERE IS?
THAT THE TREASURE IS IN "FAINT LIGHT."

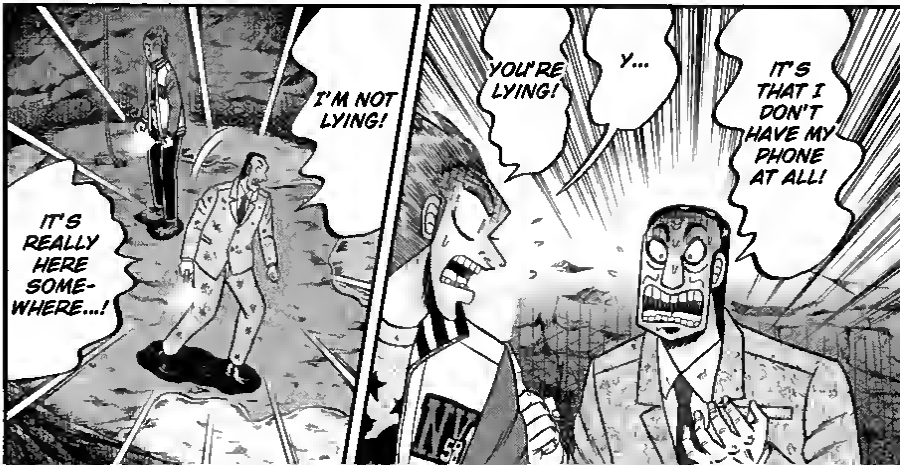
PRETENDING THAT YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW, DIRECTOR OKAJIMA...
HUH?
THERE YOU GO AGAIN,
KEE KEE
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU KNEW,
AT THE YARD OUTSIDE KIJUROU'S MANSION...
POSSIBLY WITH ZERO AND HIS PALS AS WELL,
WITH MY DAD'S FACTION AND YOUR FACTION ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER,
AND SAW IT AS YOUR BEST CHANCE!
YOU EXPECTED IT,
WHA!?
A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE THAT YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY MISS!
THIS WOULD BE THE BEST CHANCE TO RELOCATE KIJUROU WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED!

NO, NO, NO!
I'M TELLING YOU...
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA!
YOU'VE COMPLETELY DELUDED YOURSELF INTO BELIEVING YOUR ABSURD THEORIES!
ALL THAT STUFF YOU SAID,
ARE THINGS THAT YOU MADE UP IN YOUR HEAD AND WANT TO BELIEVE ARE TRUE!
OH, REALLY?
THEN CAN YOU CARE TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE?
HUH?
IF WHAT YOU SAID IS THE TRUTH,
AND THERE REALLY IS NOTHING DOWN HERE IN THIS WELL,
THEN...

YOU SHOULD HAVE NO REASON TO COME DOWN HERE AGAIN.
AND YET YOU'RE HERE...
WHY IS THAT...?
AND WHY DO YOU REFUSE TO ANSWER YOUR PHONE?
NGH!
UU...
GRR...
FINE!
I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY IT OUT LOUD BECAUSE IT WAS EMBARRASSING,
BUT...
DAMN IT!

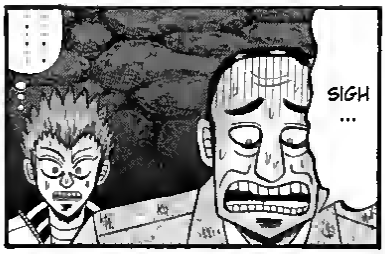
I DROPPED IT!

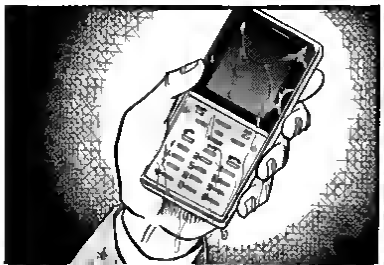

HUH?
I DROPPED MY CELL PHONE!
WHEN I CAME DOWN TO THIS WELL EARLIER,
I HAPPENED TO SLIP AND FALL.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN I LOST IT...
SO IT'S NOT THAT I'VE BEEN REFUSING TO ANSWER MY SUBORDINATES CALLING ME,


IT'S THAT I DON'T HAVE MY PHONE AT ALL!
Y...
YOU'RE LYING!
I'M NOT LYING!
IT'S REALLY HERE SOMEWHERE...!

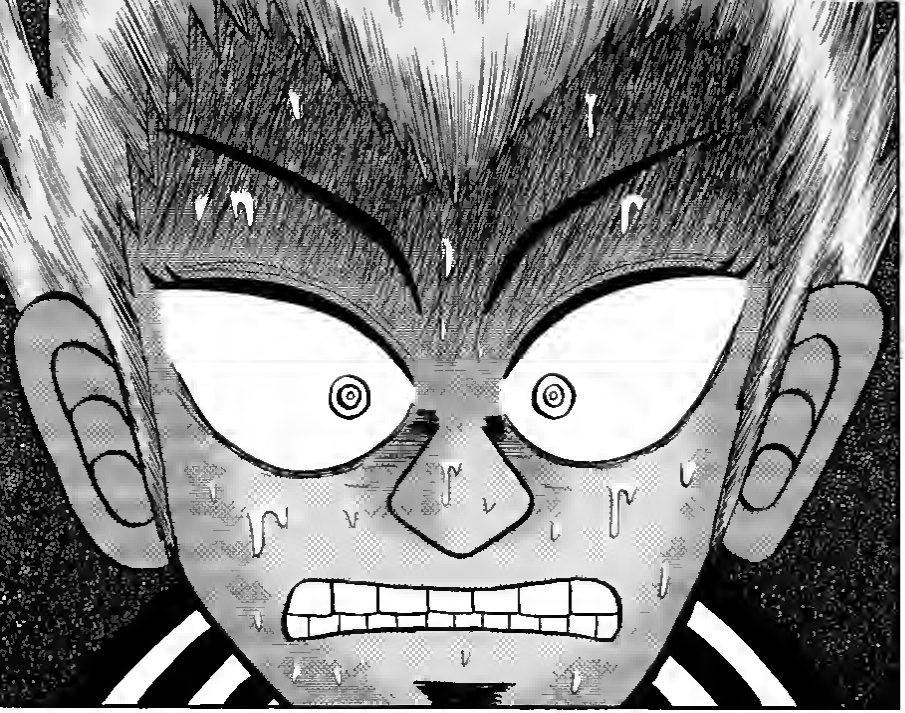
SO IT SHOULD BE...
I THINK I FELL AROUND HERE,
HAS TO BE HERE IN THIS WELL...
MY CELL PHONE,
QUIT IT!
.....
HUH?
CUT IT OUT WITH YOUR LAME ACTING ALREADY!
AHH!

I FOUND IT!
I FOUND IT BUT...


SIGH...



IT'S SOAKED.
IT PROBABLY CAN'T TAKE OR MAKE ANY CALLS ANYMORE...

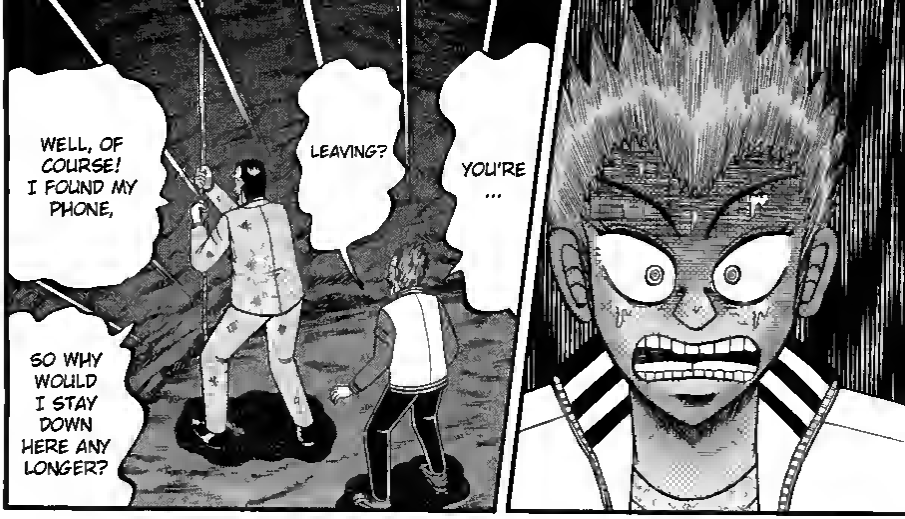


YOU QUICKLY THREW YOUR PHONE INTO THAT PUDDLE, DIDN'T YOU!?
WHEN YOU HEARD ME COMING DOWN THIS WELL,

HUH?
YOU THREW IT DOWN THERE, DIDN'T YOU!?

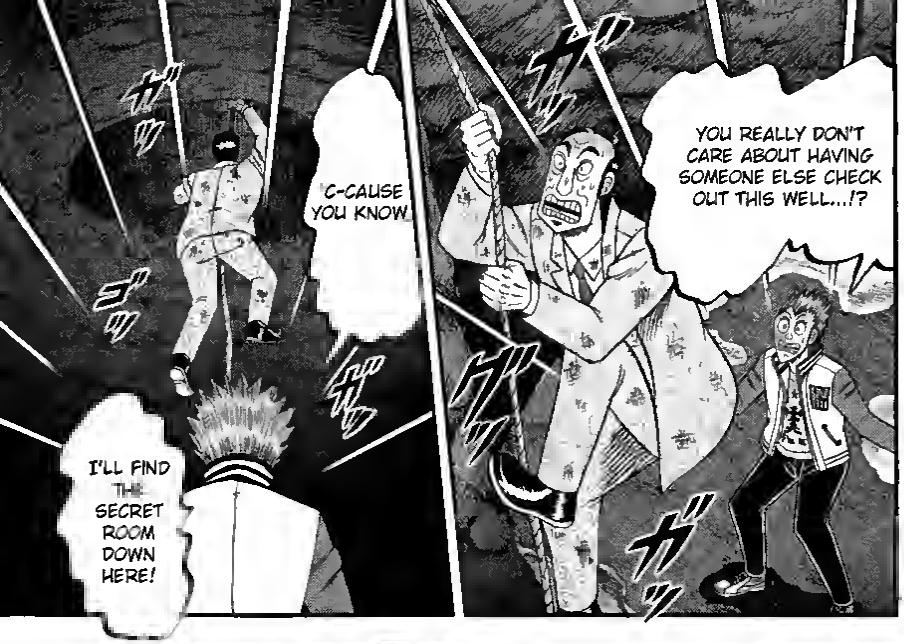
WHA?
I'M LEAVING NOW.

.....


WELL, OF COURSE! I FOUND MY PHONE,
LEAVING?
YOU'RE ...
SO WHY WOULD I STAY DOWN HERE ANY LONGER?

WHA?
I'VE GOTTA GO BACK UP AND TRY TO HELP WITH THE SEARCH!
I CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME DOWN HERE.
AND LIKE YOU SAID, THE FINAL MESSAGE HAS BEEN FOUND!

LIKE FOR REAL!?
YOU'RE SERI-OUSLY LEAVING?
B-BYE?
BYE.


I'LL FIND THE SECRET ROOM DOWN HERE!
C-CAUSE YOU KNOW
YOU REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT HAVING SOMEONE ELSE CHECK OUT THIS WELL...!?

YOU'LL UNDER-STAND,
MAYBE THEN,
SEARCH AS LONG AS YOU WANT, KID.

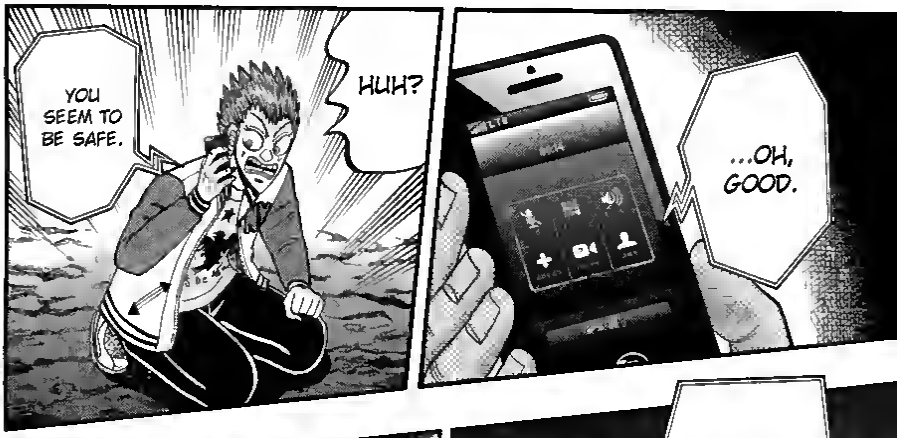
BYE THEN.
IT'S JUST AN OLD WELL. NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.
THAT THERE REALLY IS NOTHING DOWN THERE.

WHAAA?
W...
AHH!
?
NGH!
IS THIS FOR REAL?

THERE'S REALLY NOTHING!
!
WHAA?
THERE'S REALLY NOTHING SUSPICIOUS DOWN HERE!
THERE'S...
IT'S REALLY JUST A PLAIN OLD WELL!
ゴゴゴ...
WHAT THE HELL!?
...

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...
THIS...
HE'S GOTTA BE LYING...
HE'S...
NO...

.....
WHO IS THIS?
AN UNKNOWN CALLER?
HUH?


YOU SEEM TO BE SAFE.
HUH?
...OH, GOOD.

BUT...
WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM TAKING ANY VIOLENT ACTIONS.
I FIGURED THAT KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOU BY PHONE,
EVEN IF OKAJIMA HAD TURNED OUT TO BE THE CRIMINAL,

I GUESS IT WAS A NEED-LESS WORRY.
JUDGING BY THE TONE OF YOUR VOICE,
BOTH OKAJIMA AND THE WELL,
TURNED OUT TO BE DEAD ENDS, RIGHT?
YOU'RE ...
ZERO!?
HA HA
WHAT?
TATSUKI

MOVE!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
YOU'RE THE ONLY HOPE LEFT!
YOU'VE GOTTA GET BACK UP AGAIN!
WHAT!?

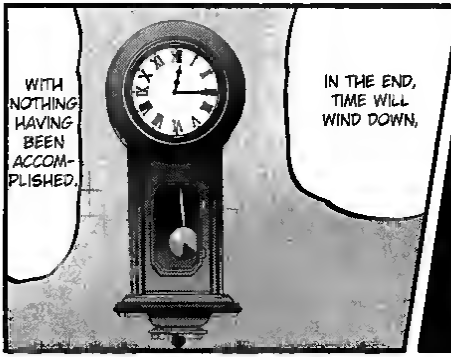
賭博覇王伝
ゼロ
零
ギャンキ
GYANKI
ZERO

Chapter 77 Lone
第77話 唯一

KIJUROU'S MYSTERY,
ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE SOLVED WITH JUST ONE TRY.
EVEN IF YOU'VE FIGURED OUT THE FINAL MESSAGE,
IT WON'T REVEAL ITS SECRETS THAT EASILY.
TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, NONE OF THE OTHERS CAN BE COUNTED ON.
NOT ONLY THAT,
THEY'RE STILL POSSIBLE SUSPECTS.
WHA?

THEY'LL ONLY TRY TO LEAD EVERYONE'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE REAL LOCATION OF THE TREASURE ROOM...
THE MYSTERY WILL BE LEFT UNSOLVED,

IF EITHER DIRECTOR OKAJIMA OR YOUR FATHER TURNS OUT TO BE THE CRIMINAL,
YES.
SUS-PECTS?


WITH NOTHING HAVING BEEN ACCOM-PLISHED.
IN THE END, TIME WILL WIND DOWN,

AND THE REAL FACTS WILL BECOME EVEN MORE SHROUDED.
.....
58

HE'S IN AN EXTREME STATE OF DEBILITY.
MEA-NING,
IT WON'T BE LONG,

RIGHT NOW, IT'S LIKELY THAT KIJUROU'S SOURCE OF FOOD AND WATER HAS BEEN CUT OFF,

THAT'S WHY THE MYSTERY HAS TO BE SOLVED,
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
BEFORE HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH!
AND THE LOCATION OF THE TREASURE ROOM UNCOVERED!
AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THAT RIGHT NOW,
IS YOU!
YOU'RE OUR LONE HOPE!
TATSUKI!

DON'T YOU WANT TO MEET,
THAT'S MY MAIN OBJECTIVE TOO.
YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR GRAND-FATHER, DON'T YOU?
NGH!
THE MAN WHO STUMPED US SO MANY TIMES, TATSUKI!?
I'LL SAVE HIM NO MATTER WHAT!
NO NEED TO SAY ANY MORE,
O-OF COURSE!
AH!

I'VE GOT TO SAVE KIJUROU!

AH...
MA'AM,
I THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME,
TATSUKI'S PHONE NUMBER.

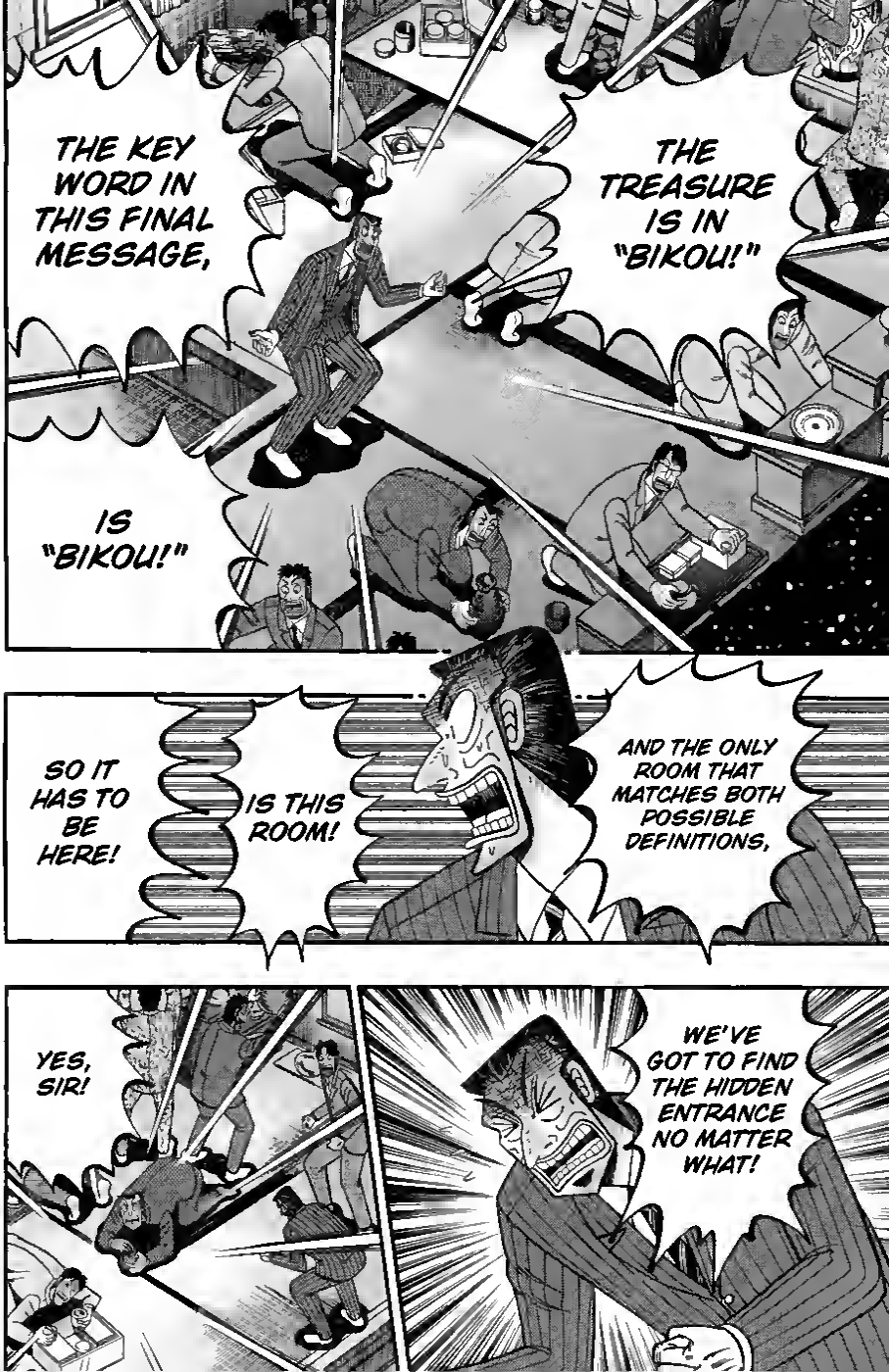
THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR!
OH,
HE SEEMS TO BE FINE AND IS ON HIS WAY TO SOLVING THE FINAL MYSTERY.
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT.
HAHA,
WHA?

WELL, OBVI-OUSLY..
.....
THEY'RE NOT EVEN CONSIDERING,
OF LETTING SUEZAKI JOIN IN.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HE SAYS.
THE PRESI-DENT AND HIS FACTION,
BUT,
FROM SEARCHING THE STACK OF BOOKS WHICH THEY REFUSED TO SHARE!
THE HIDDEN LOCATION OF THE TREASURE ROOM THAT THEY FOUND,
AREN'T JUST GOING TO GIVE AWAY,
IT'S SO OBVIOUS!
WHERE THEY THINK THE HIDDEN ROOM IS! THEY'RE ALL GATHERED RIGHT OUTSIDE IT FOR GOD'S SAKE!
THAT IT'S EASY TO SEE,
IT'S *BECAUSE* OF THAT STUBBORN-NESS TO REFUSE OTHER PEOPLE TO HELP,

IT'S THE INCENSE ROOM!
.....
THAT PITCH-BLACK ROOM!
EVEN IF WE KNOW THAT'S THE ROOM,
IT'S MEANINGLESS UNLESS WE CAN GET INSIDE!
WE'VE GOT NO HANDS TO PLAY
WHETHER KIJUROU IS SAVED OR NOT,
IS ENTIRELY UP TO...

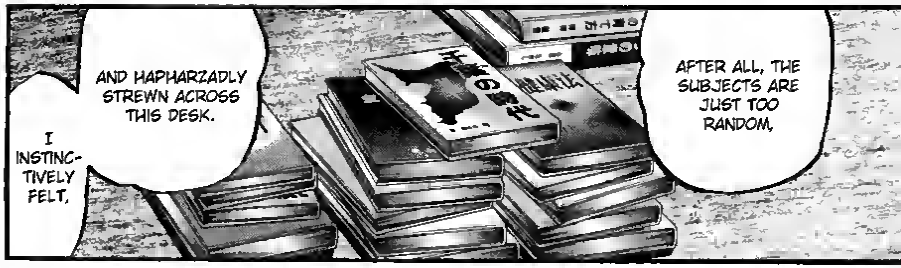
IT HAS TO BE HERE!
IT HAS TO!
THERE HAS TO BE A SWITCH OF SOME SORT,
THAT'LL OPEN UP A WAY TO A SECRET UNDER-GROUND ROOM!
I'M CER-TAIN!
IT'S HERE SOME-WHERE!

PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU AND THOSE IN HIS FACTION!


THE KEY WORD IN THIS FINAL MESSAGE,
IS "BIKOU!"
THE TREASURE IS IN "BIKOU!"
SO IT HAS TO BE HERE!
IS THIS ROOM!
AND THE ONLY ROOM THAT MATCHES BOTH POSSIBLE DEFINITIONS,
YES, SIR!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE HIDDEN ENTRANCE NO MATTER WHAT!

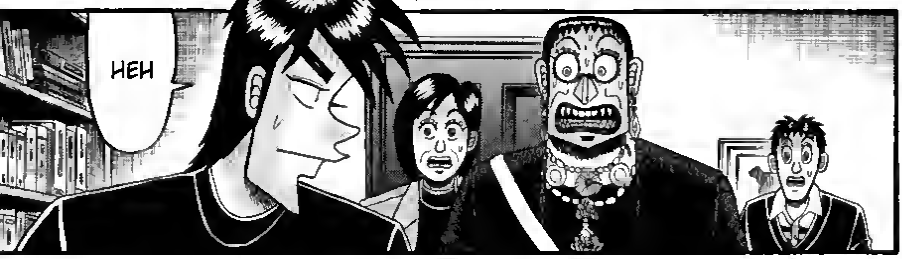
……
HAHA.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I WAS RIGHT TO FEEL UNEASY ABOUT THESE BOOKS.

I SAW THESE BOOKS
I FELT SOMETHING WAS OFF...
EVER SINCE,
HUH?

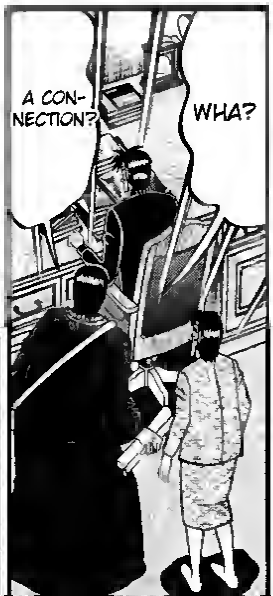

I INSTINCTIVELY FELT,
AND HAPHAZARDLY STREWN ACROSS THIS DESK.
AFTER ALL, THE SUBJECTS ARE JUST TOO RANDOM,

JUNKO.
WHAT USE ARE BOOKS IF NOT TO READ, THOUGH..?
NOT FOR READING?
THAT THESE BOOKS WEREN'T PLACED HERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF READING...!

DESPITE THE SEEMINGLY RANDOM NATURE OF THESE BOOKS,
THERE IS ONE WAY IN WHICH THEY'RE CONNECTED. CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT...?


HEH

IF YOU TAKE A LOOK,
IS THERE SUCH A THING?

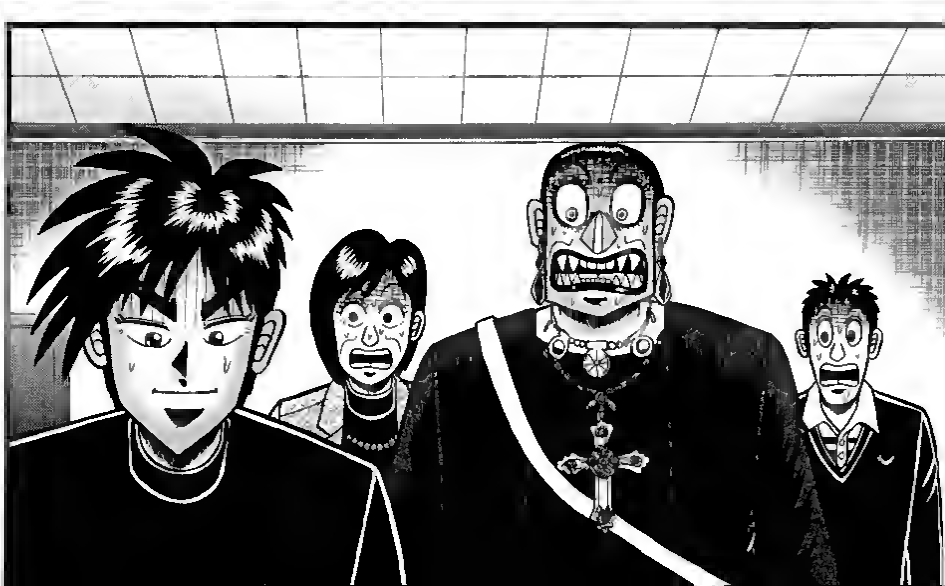

WHA?
A CONNECTION?

AT THE TITLES OF THE BOOKS...

YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THEY'RE ORDERED FROM 'TA" TO "NU!"
千葉の時代
テコンドー入門
著 太田俊夫
ツイてなかった 東電
ニュートロン粒子学
千葉の脅威
中国の脅威
著 毛 漢東
大衆の世紀
著 加藤博正
ヌンチャク入門
チベット研究Ⅰ
体重の60%は水だ
桂木美代
南米の脅威
立川入門
上田 良
中型二輪を取ろう
地球誕生
妻になる女 7つの条件
中川 夕菜
妻になる女 条件

ざわ・ざわ
SERI-OUSLY!?
AH!

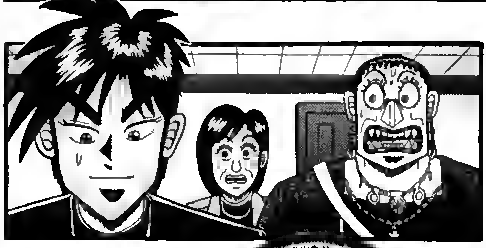
AH-

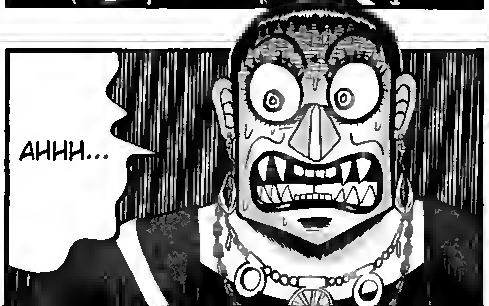


OR THE GUIDE TO NUNCHUCKS BEGINNING WITH NU...
THE CHINESE THREAT BOOK BEGINNING WITH CHU,
THE CHIBA BOOKS BEGINNING WITH CHI,
YOU'RE RIGHT!
EVEN THIS HOUSEWIFE GUIDE BEGINS WITH TSU...!

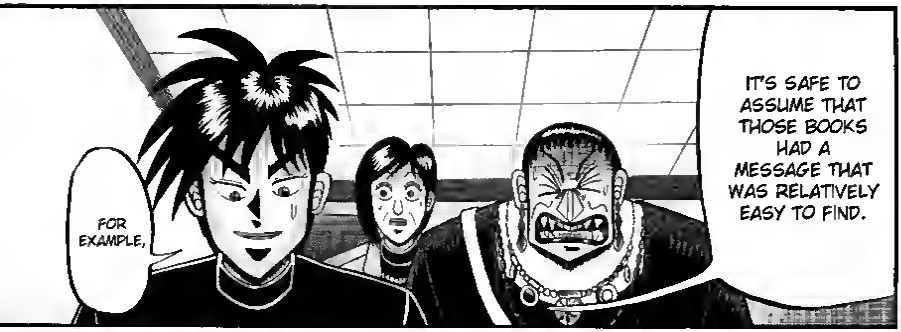
*ORDER FROM TA TO NU WOULD BE: TA, CHI, TSU, TE, TO, NA, NI, NU

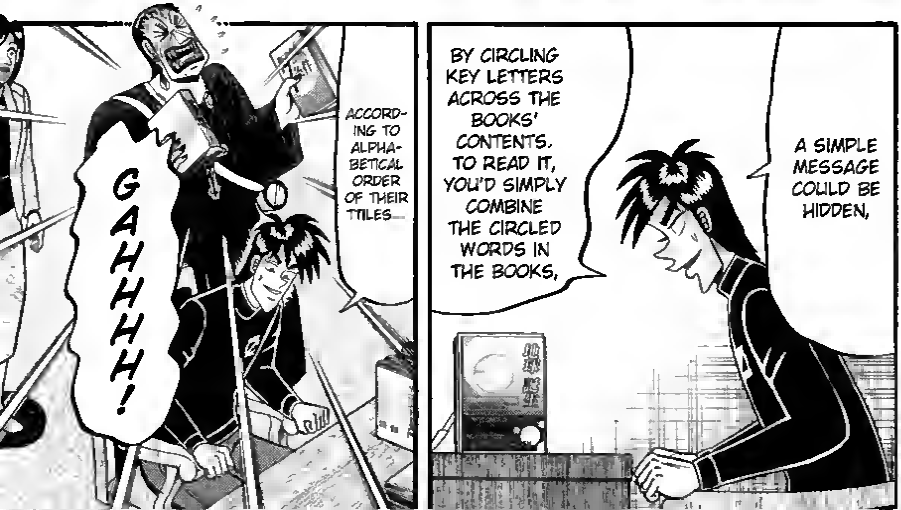
KIJUROU HID THE FINAL MESSAGES IN JUST A FEW OF THE BOOKS FROM TA TO NU ON THE BOOKSHELF,
MOST LIKELY,
THEY'RE ALL BOOKS FROM TA TO NU!
AND TOOK OUT THE REST,



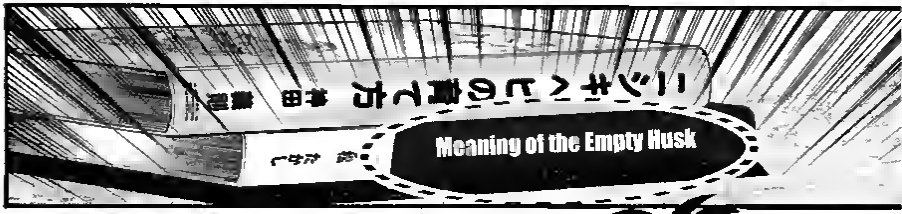


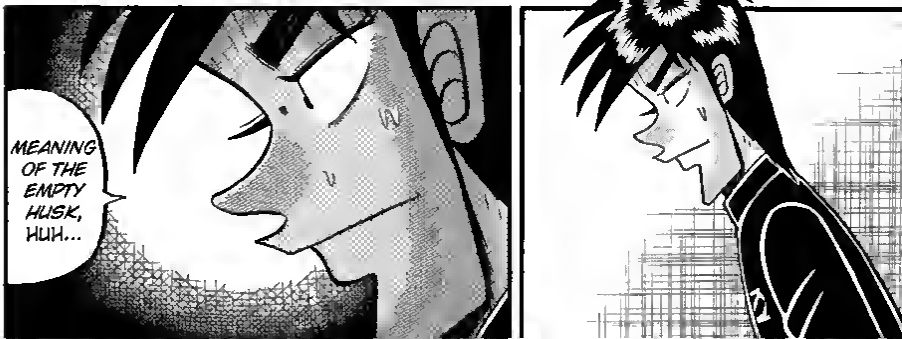
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE CLUE WAS HERE ALL ALONG!
. . . .
SEEING AS HOW QUICKLY
THE PRESIDENT AND HIS MEN WERE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE FINAL MESSAGE,
AFTER SECURING THE BOOKS


IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THOSE BOOKS HAD A MESSAGE THAT WAS RELATIVELY EASY TO FIND.
FOR EXAMPLE,


A SIMPLE MESSAGE COULD BE HIDDEN,
BY CIRCLING KEY LETTERS ACROSS THE BOOKS' CONTENTS. TO READ IT, YOU'D SIMPLY COMBINE THE CIRCLED WORDS IN THE BOOKS,
ACCORDING TO ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF THEIR TTILES—
GAHHH!

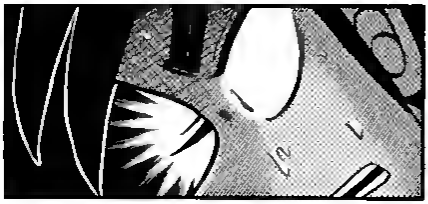
HA.
THEY BEAT US TO THE PUNCH JUST BECAUSE THEY COINCIDENTALLY HAPPENED TO BE AT THIS HOUSE AT THAT TIME...!
EVEN THOUGH WE REALIZED THE "TA TO NU" PART,
WE WERE SOOO CLOSE!
きゅ～ん!
YOU SOME-TIMES DON'T.
THAT'S JUST HOW LUCK IS. YOU SOMETIMES HAVE IT.
GAHHHH!

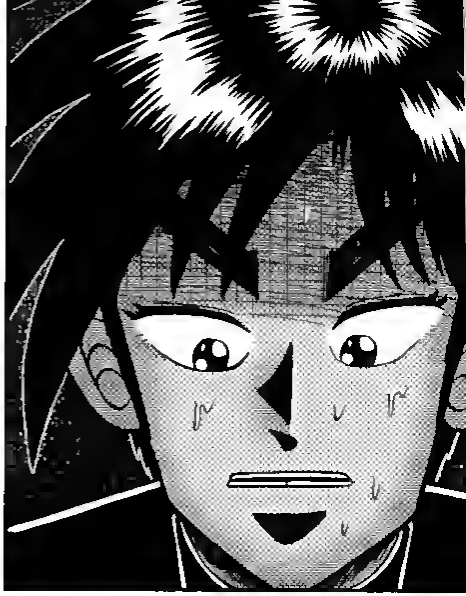

Meaning of the Empty Husk


MEANING OF THE EMPTY HUSK, HUH...

ぬけがらの意味
小松 たかし
AN EMPTY HUSK,
FITTING IRONIC HUMOUR FROM KIJUROU...
NATURALLY SIGNIFIES DEFEAT...

佐山書房
ぬけがらの意味
小松 たかし

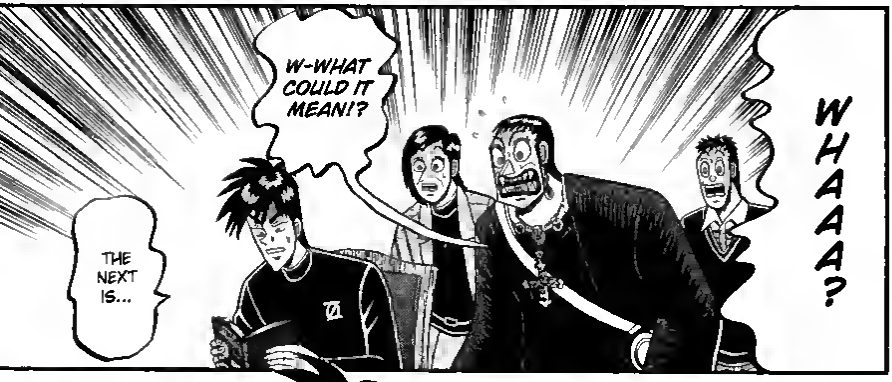




平和の時代

人はなぜ抜け殻になる

WHAT IS IT?
SOME OF THE LETTERS HERE ARE CIRCLED.
THE FIRST CIRCLED LETTER WAS A "SA,"
AND THE NEXT WAS A "WA"...

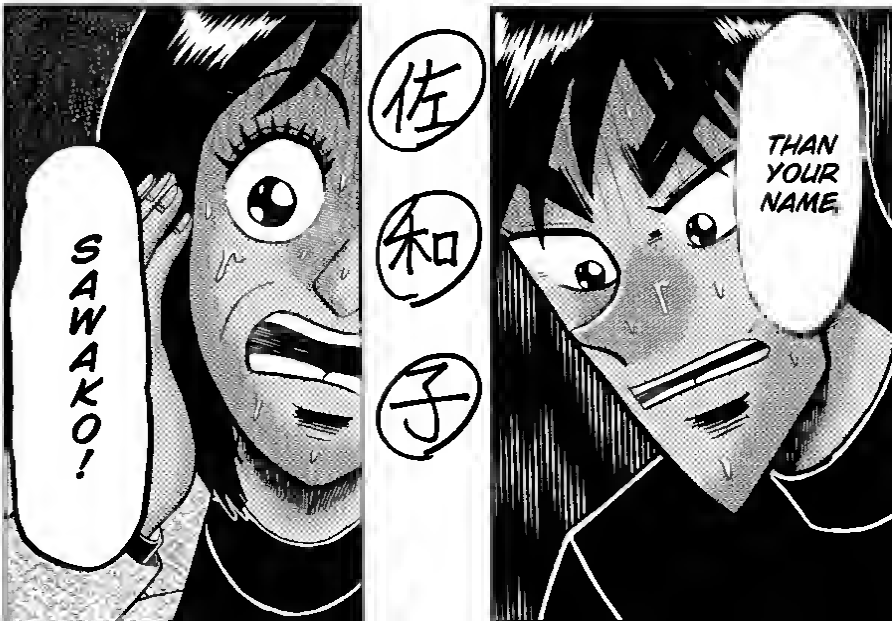

WHAAA?
W-WHAT COULD IT MEAN!?
THE NEXT IS...

KO!
KO FROM KODOMO! (CHILD)

OH MY,
WHAT COULD IT MEAN, I WONDER?
I THINK THAT'S QUITE CLEAR, MA'AM...

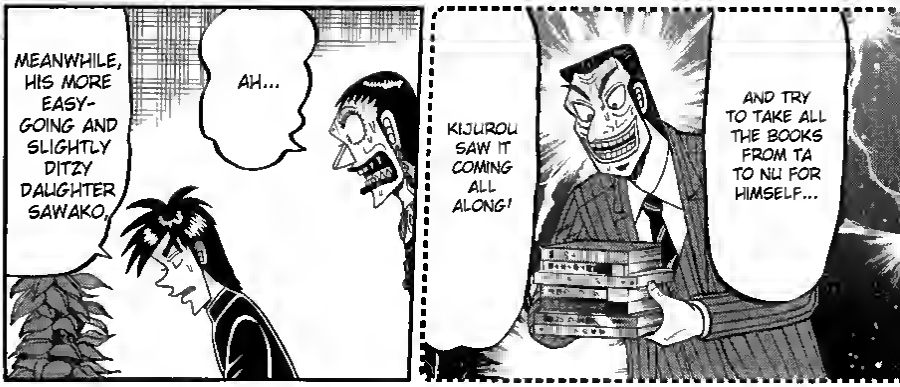
(子)供も抜け殻になりっ

IT'S NONE OTHER.


THAN YOUR NAME.
佐和子
SAWAKO!

Chapter 78 Remains

IS THAT KIJUROU,
PREDICTED THAT THE TREASURE HUNT,
WOULD BECOME A RACE WITHIN THE FAMILY,
AND THAT HIS MORE QUICK-WITTED AND COMPETITIVE SON TAKAMITSU WOULD CRACK THE BUDDHA CODE FIRST,


AND TRY TO TAKE ALL THE BOOKS FROM TA TO NU FOR HIMSELF...
KIJUROU SAW IT COMING ALL ALONG!
AH...
MEANWHILE, HIS MORE EASY-GOING AND SLIGHTLY DITZY DAUGHTER SAWAKO,

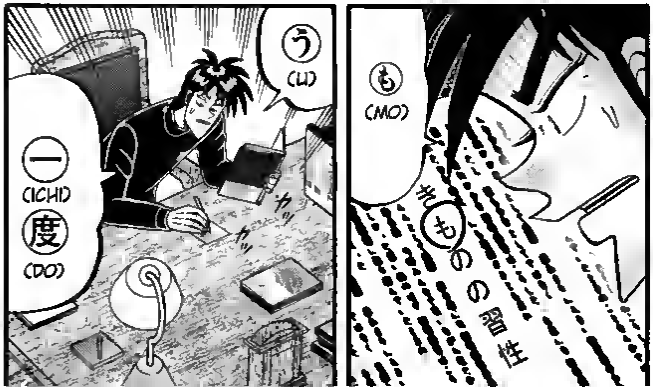
WOULD PROBABLY, COME UP SHORT!
THAT'S WHY...

YES, YOUR FATHER SPECIALLY PREPARED.
HELP?
HUH?
HE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE HELP, MA'AM.
AN ALTERNATE WAY,
TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY!
REALLY, ZERO!?
GOSH, ISN'T THAT JUST NICE OF HIM?
OH MY, IS THAT SO!?
LET'S SEE...

WHERE KIJUROU'S ALTERNATE PATH LEADS US TO...!
WE'LL START.
BY FIGURING OUT THE FINAL MESSAGE TO HIS DAUGHTER...!

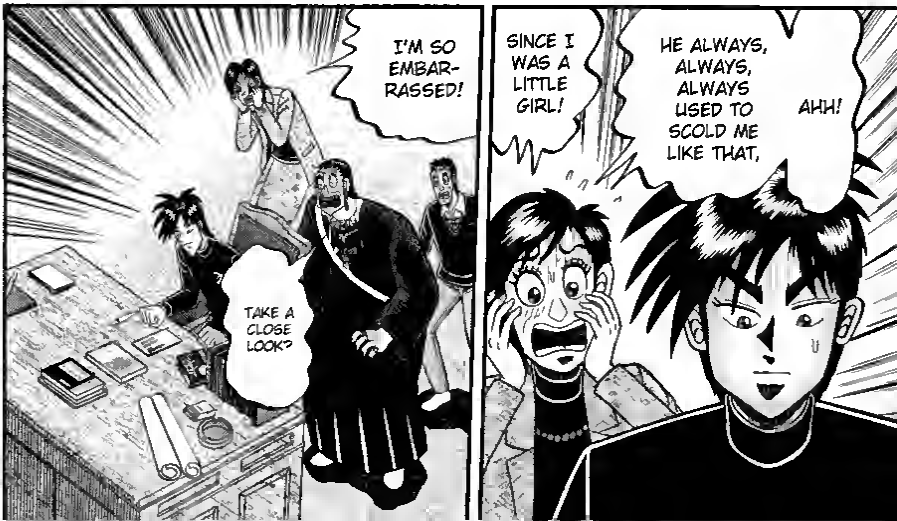
AFTER SAWAKO,
COMES ....
身体のよわい
よ (YO)

佐和子


も (MO)
その習性
う (U)
ガッ ガッ
一 (ICHI)
度 (DO)

10 Minutes Later
AH...
DONE!!
THIS IS IT...
THE FINAL MESSAGE HE LEFT BEHIND FOR HIS DAUGTHER...
娘からの遺言
重圧するなかれ！

佐和子よ
もう一度
よく
見てみよう
SAWAKO, TAKE A CLOSE LOOK ONCE MORE.


I'M SO EMBARRASSED!
TAKE A CLOSE LOOK?
SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL!
HE ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS USED TO SCOLD ME LIKE THAT,
AHH!

HOW IS THIS GOING TO HELP US AT ALL!?
IT'S WAY TOO VAGUE!
A CLOSE LOOK AT WHAT!?
AHH!
EMPTY HUSK...
OVER WHERE!?
IT'S OVER THERE!
ZERO!
IT CAN ONLY MEAN...

"TAKE A CLOSE LOOK"...
HE'S TELLING US TO LOOK AT THE EMPTY HUSK ON THE BOOKSHELF!
THE EMPTY SPACE LEFT IN THE TA TO NU SECTION!
.....??
ZERO...
SORRY ZERO.
THE LIBRARY!

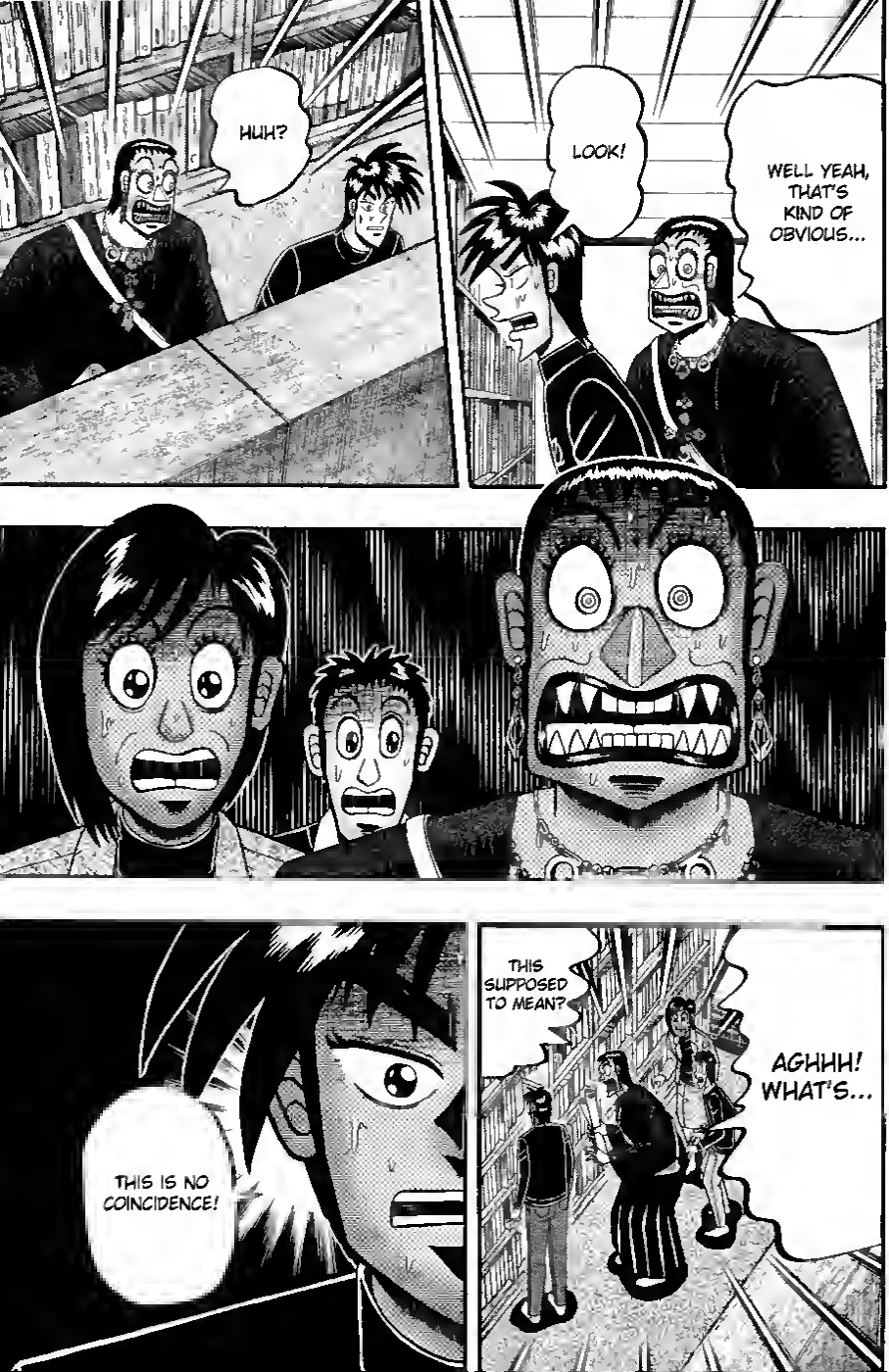
ALL THERE'S LEFT IS A PITIFUL EMPTY SPACE...
THE BOOKS WE NEED ARE GONE
BUT IT'S THE SAME NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU LOOK
THERE'S NOTHING TO-
.....

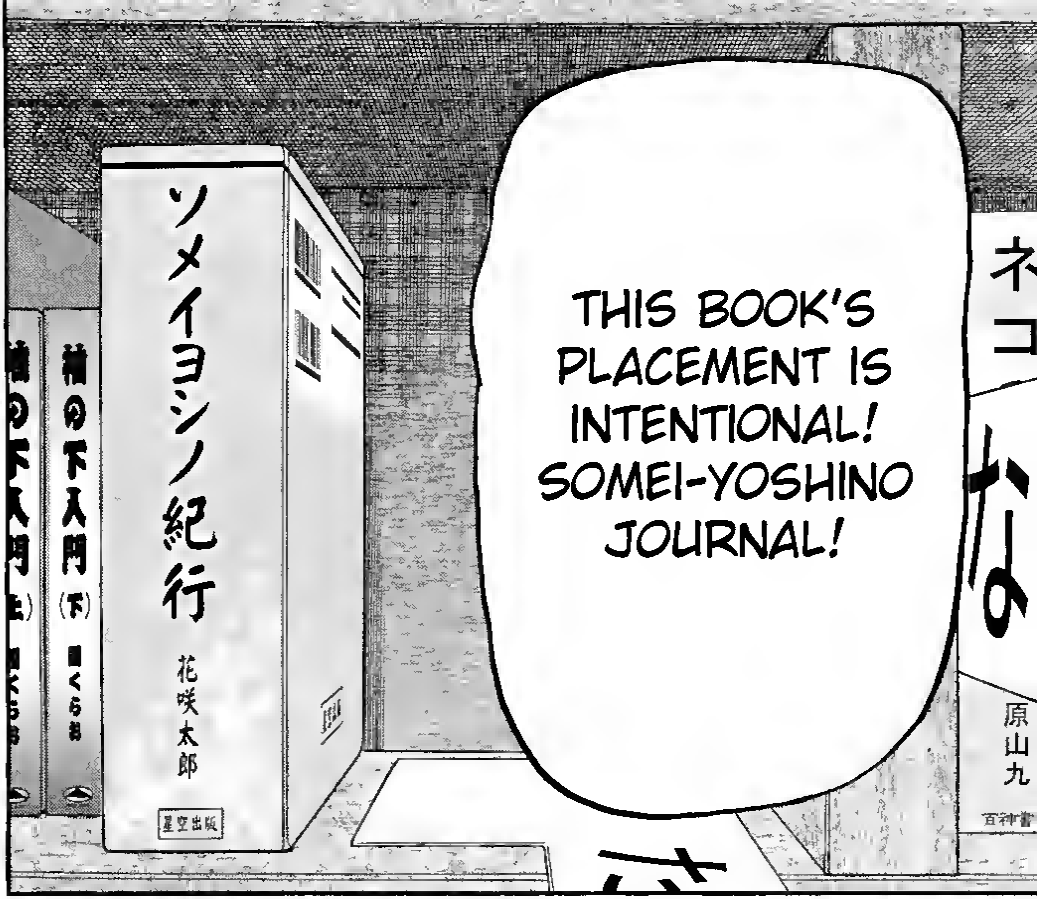
AGH!
AGHH!
W-WHAT IS IT, ZERO!?

HUH?
THIS ISN'T A COINCI-DENCE!
.....

BEFORE THE BOOKS FROM TA TO NU,
WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?

UHH...
MEANING THAT THE BOOK JUST TO THE LEFT IS ONE BEGINNING WITH "SO"...!
YOU HAVE BOOKS FROM SA TO SO,
TO THE LEFT,

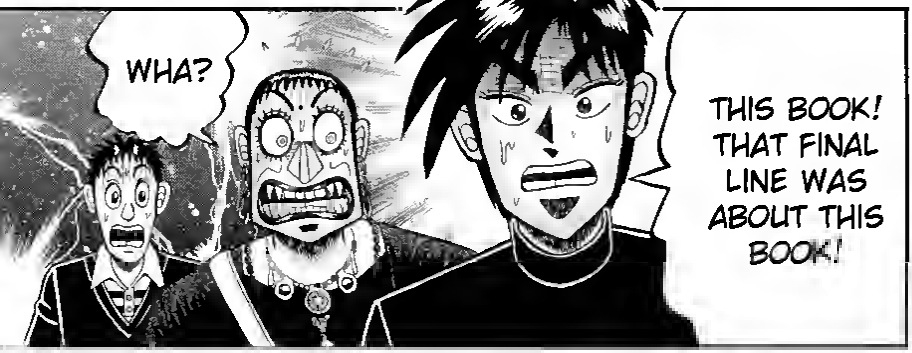

HUH?
LOOK!
WELL YEAH, THAT'S KIND OF OBVIOUS...
THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE!
THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
AGHHH! WHAT'S...


THIS BOOK'S PLACEMENT IS INTENTIONAL! SOMEI-YOSHINO JOURNAL!
ソメイヨシノ紀行
花咲太郎
星空出版
猫の下人門（下）
猫の下人門（上）

IS THE SOMEI-YOSHINO!
THE MOST FAMOUS CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE,
THE FINAL LINE,
IT'S NO COINCI-DENCE THAT THIS BOOK IS HERE.

AH!
AS ANY JAPANESE PERSON WOULD KNOW,

IN THE YUKICHI MONO-LOGUE,
"BEFORE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FALL,"
DIDN'T REFER TO HOW PRESSED FOR TIME HE WAS,
BUT RATHER...
ソメイヨシノ紀行
花咲太郎
桜の下入門
桜の下入門
蘇鉄大辞典
桜散る前に

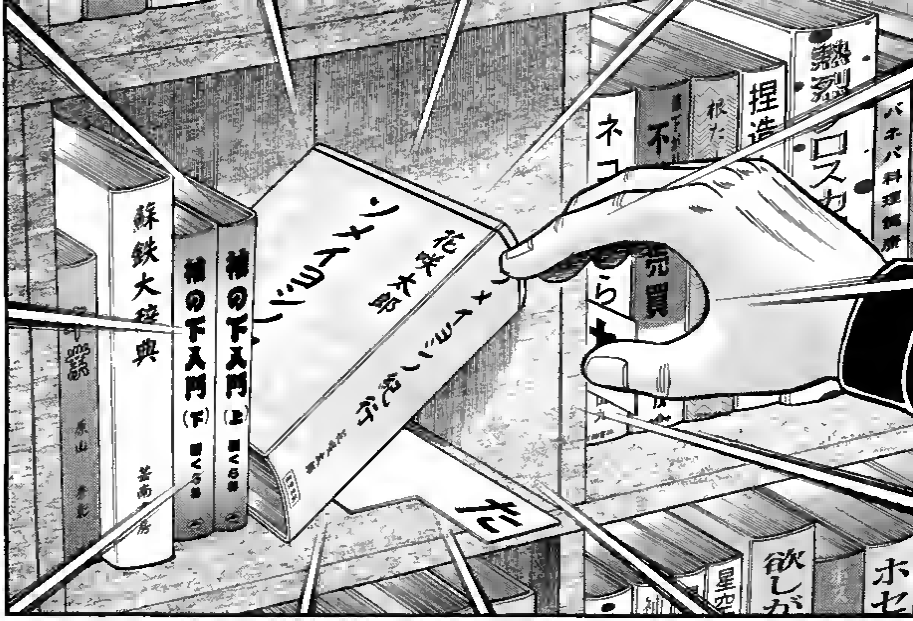

WHA?
THIS BOOK! THAT FINAL LINE WAS ABOUT THIS BOOK!

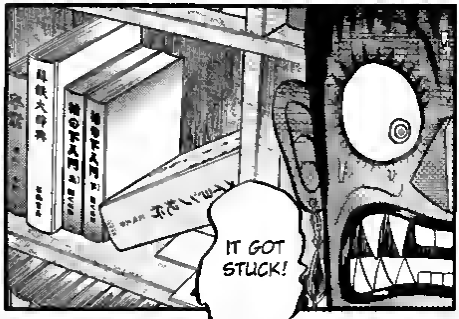
NO, WAIT!
IS WRIT-TEN INSIDE THAT B-
HUH?
DON'T TOUCH IT!
THE LOCATION OF THE TREASURE ROOM,
Y-YOU MEAN,

WE'VE GOT TO,
FAITH-FULLY FOLLOW.
?
?
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OUT!
THE LINE, "BEFORE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FALL."
OR,
IT CAN REFER TO A GLORI-OUS DEATH.
BY THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FALLING,
IT MEANS WITHERING,
AND...
SO FOR A TREE,
DYING IN GENERAL.

FALLING OVER!..!
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEI-YOSHINO JOURNAL,
FALLS OVER...?

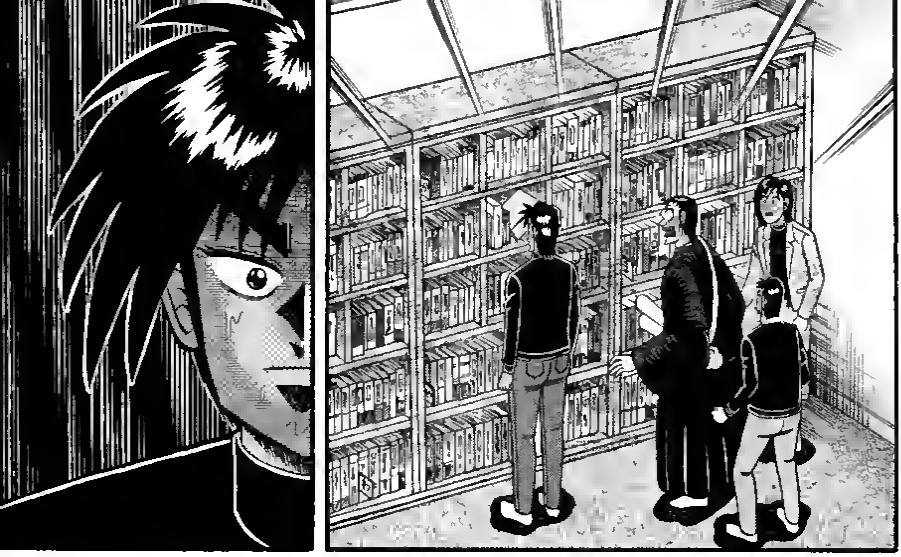
ゆらっ…
HERE GOES NOTHING...
ドッ

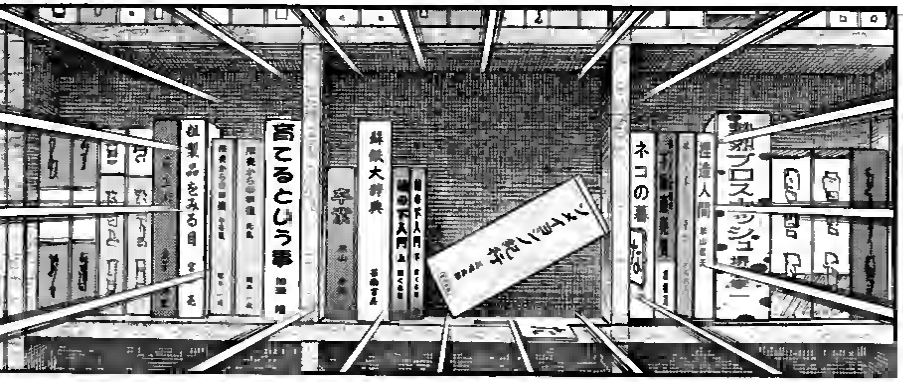

熱烈
捏造
ロスカ
売買
欲しが
ホセ
蘇鉄大辞典
裸の下入門(上)
裸の下入門(下)
ネコ

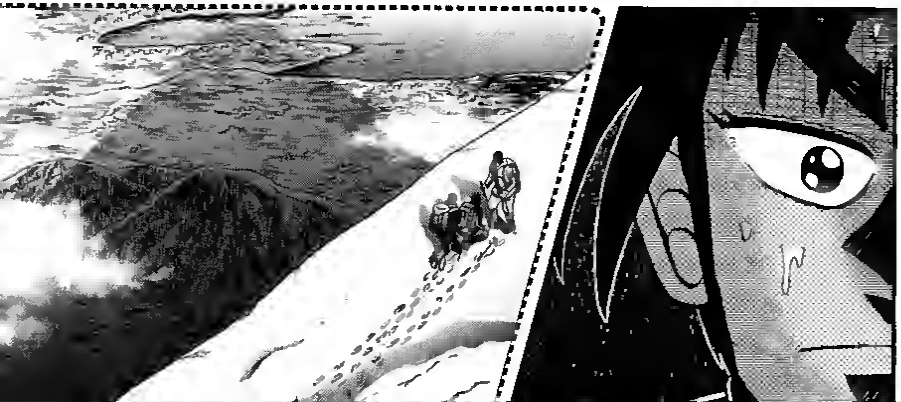

IT GOT STUCK!

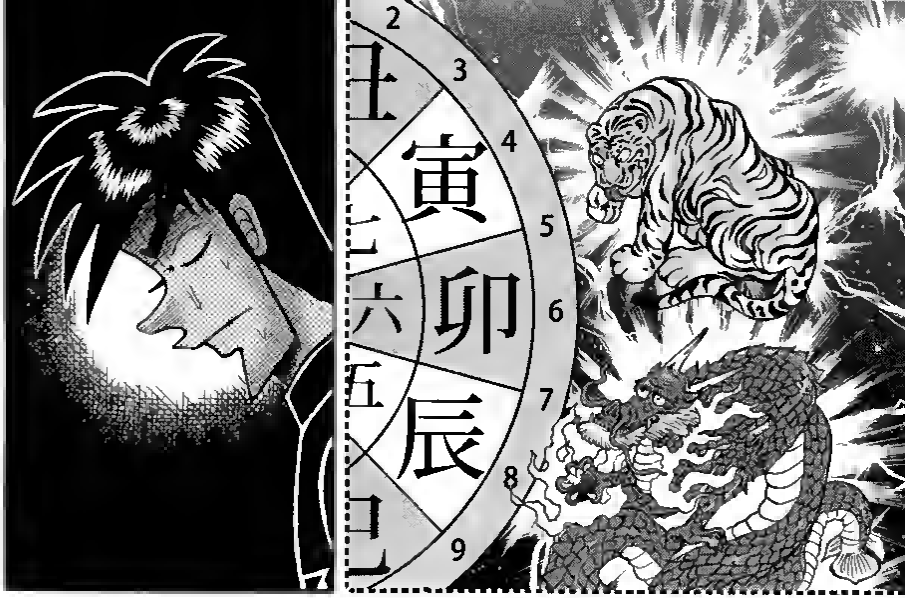
AH!

WAIT...
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO JUST LOOK INSIDE THE BOOK INSTEAD...?
ZERO.
COMPLETELY FALL OVER!
IT DIDN'T,

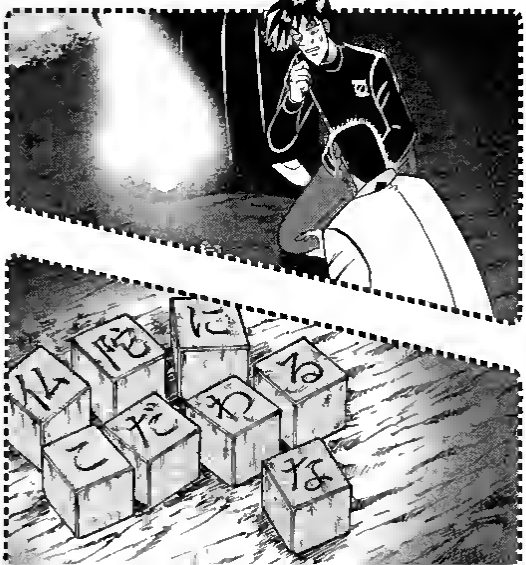



高てるとひう事
科学
科学大辞典
ネコの暮
プロスポーツ




寅
卯
辰
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

ブッダノサイゴノトルタカラヌスデ


に
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仏
陀
わ
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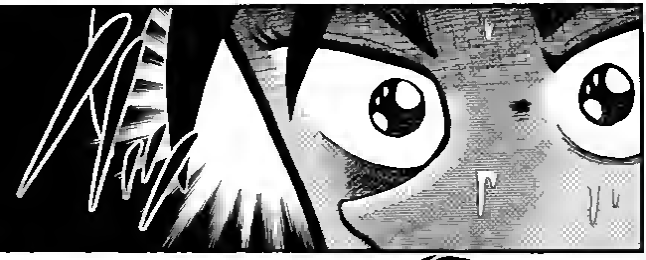
な


FROM TA TO NU...

AHH!

HUH?
AGHH! I GET IT NOW!

WHAT, WHAT, WHAT!?
ZERO,
WHAT DID YOU FIGURE OUT!?
IT'S ABSO-LUTELY INCREDIBLE!
KIJUROU, YOU'RE A GENIUS!
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT,
BY AN EMPTY HUSK...!

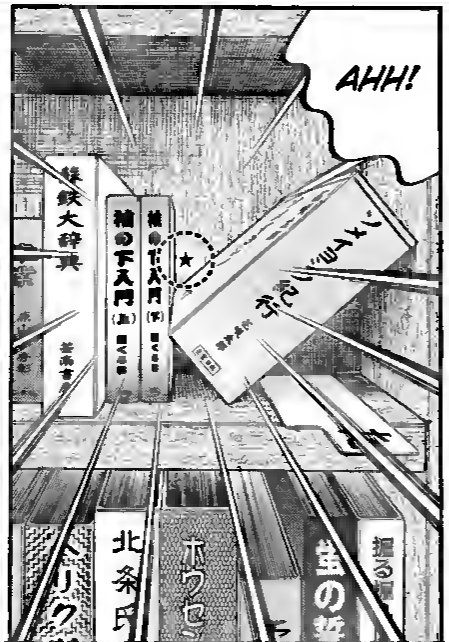
だー
SO THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT?
か?
ざわ…
THE MEANING OF THE EMPTY HUSK?
Chapter 79
Appearance

E...
な
ZERO?
WHAT DID YOU FIGURE OUT,
WHAT IS IT!?
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?
ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..
EVERY-THING!
WHA?

THE ROOM WHERE KIJUROU IS CONFINED RIGHT NOW...
THAT IS TO SAY,
I KNOW WHERE IT IS!

T-THE TREA-SURE ROOM...
ざわ…
ざわ…

THERE'S A STAR-SHAPED MARK!
T-


AHH!

HOW CAN YOU FIGURE OUT EVERYTHING FROM THIS STAR ALONE?
SO WHAT?
BUT,
JUNKO

どどっ…!!

IT'S ALL SHOWN RIGHT HERE!
HUH?

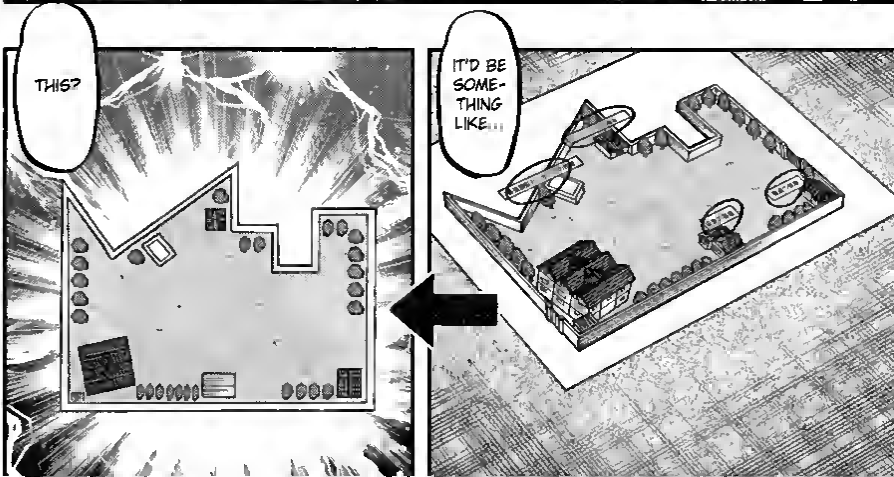
HUH?

NAOKI, MS. SAWAKO, YOU TOO!

HUH?
LOOK!

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THIS MAP,
OF THE MANSION AND ITS YARD...
AND VISUAL-IZE,
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
FROM STRAIGHT ABOVE!
HUH?
STRAIGHT ABOVE?

SO IMAGINE WHAT THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE,
FROM AN OVERHEAD VIEW...?
I GUESS,


THIS?
IT'D BE SOME-THING LIKE...

WHA...?

I...
HUH?
YOU LOST ME.
HOW DOES THAT CHANGE THE MAP IN ANY W-
AHH!

AHH!
WHAT IS IT, NAOKI?
HUH?
AHH!
. . . . . .

W-WHAT IS IT?
I-IT'S RIGHT HERE!
AGHHHH!
IT... WHAT?
THE MAP! IT'S THE MAP!
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE...!
THE SHAPE OF THE SHELF'S BACK-WALL,
THE WHAT NOW?
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?
AND THE LAYOUT OF THIS MANSION GROUNDS...

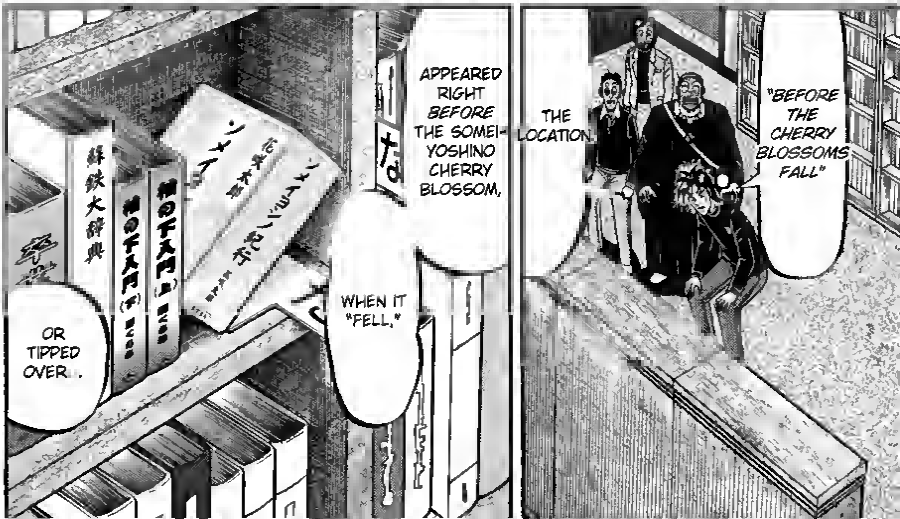
蘇鉄大辞典
芸南書房
卒業
原山 勝彰
補の下入門（上）
補の下入門（下）

Mansion Grounds
THEY'RE THE SAME!

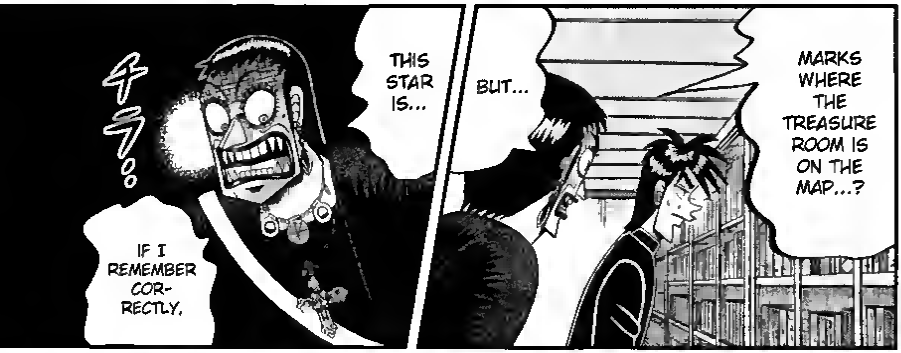
SERI-
OUSLY!?
S...
HUH?
LET ME
SEE...

AGHHHH!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

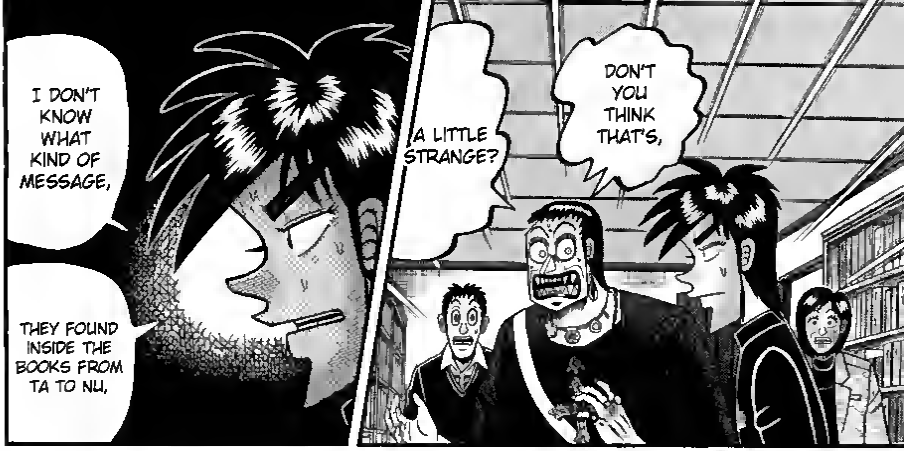
JUST AS THE MONO-LOGUE SAID...

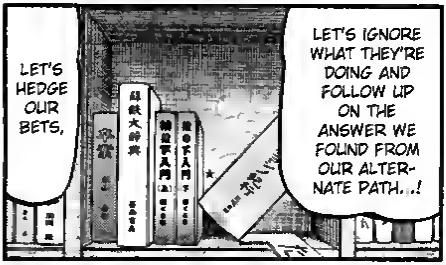

"BEFORE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FALL"
THE LOCATION
APPEARED RIGHT BEFORE THE SOMEI-YOSHINO CHERRY BLOSSOM,
WHEN IT "FELL,"
OR TIPPED OVER...

THAT STAR...
Y-YOU MEAN,
THAT'S WHERE THE ROOM IS!


チラ。
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY,
THIS STAR IS...
BUT...
MARKS WHERE THE TREASURE ROOM IS ON THE MAP...?

.....
BUT THE PRESIDENT AND HIS MEN ARE INSIDE THE INCENSE ROOM!
THE STAINED GLASS ROOM!
IT'S POINTING TO,
Stained Glass Room

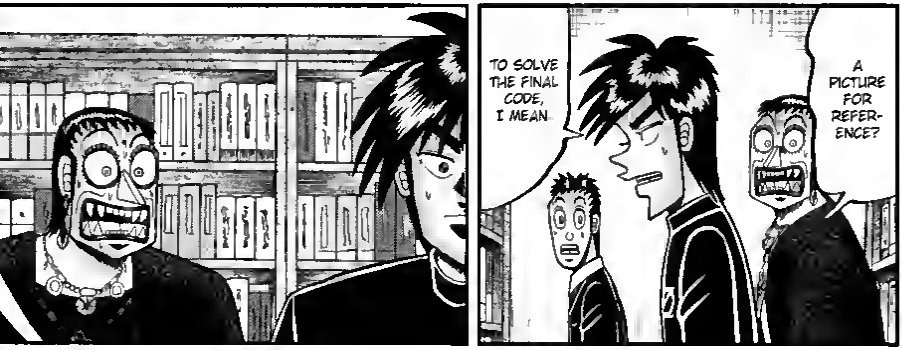

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE,
THEY FOUND INSIDE THE BOOKS FROM TA TO NU,
A LITTLE STRANGE?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S,


LET'S HEDGE OUR BETS,
LET'S IGNORE WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND FOLLOW UP ON THE ANSWER WE FOUND FROM OUR ALTERNATE PATH...!

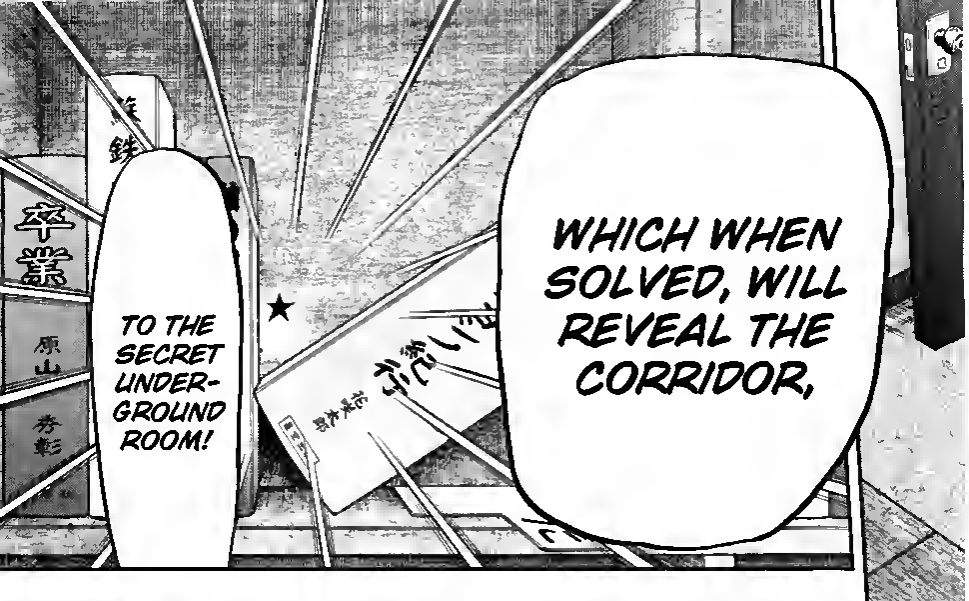
BUT FOR THE TIME BEING,
SO I'M NOT IN ANY POSITION TO COMMENT ON THAT

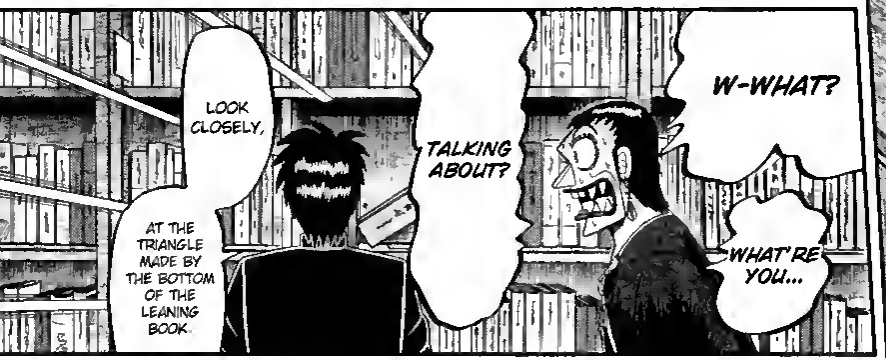
ON THE STAINED GLASS ROOM,
AS THE REAL LOCATION OF THE TREASURE ROOM!

保存中
BUT I WANT A PICTURE TO REFER BACK TO JUST IN CASE
IT'S NOT BECAUSE I CAN'T REMEMBER THIS THAT I'M TAKING THIS PICTURE.
HUH?


TO SOLVE THE FINAL CODE, I MEAN.
A PICTURE FOR REFER-ENCE?

THE FINAL BARRIER,
STANDING IN OUR WAY FROM REACHING THE TREASURE ROOM..
THIS IS PRO-BABLY,
FINAL WHAT?


TO THE SECRET UNDER-GROUND ROOM!
WHICH WHEN SOLVED, WILL REVEAL THE CORRIDOR,

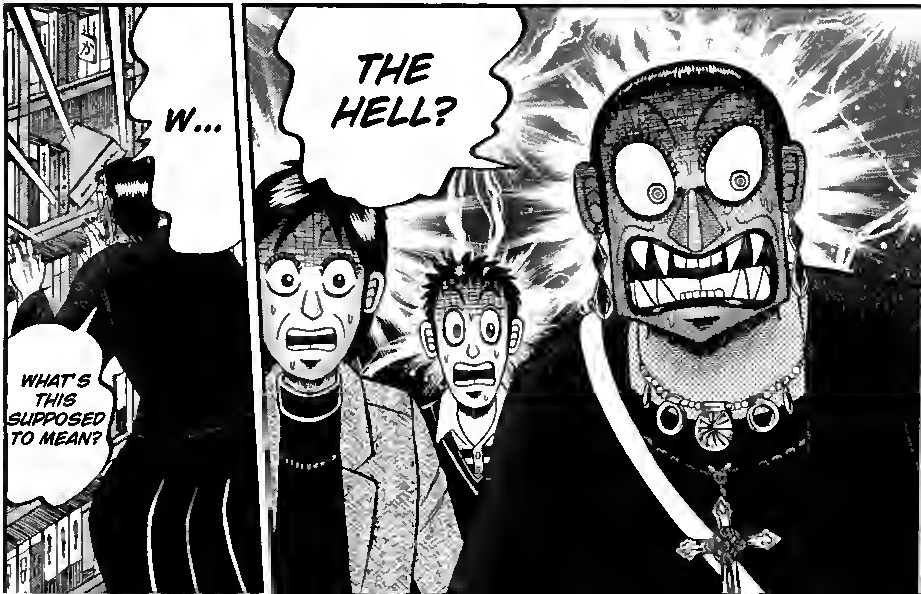

LOOK CLOSELY,
AT THE TRIANGLE MADE BY THE BOTTOM OF THE LEANING BOOK.
TALKING ABOUT?
W-WHAT?
WHAT'RE YOU...

THERE'S SOME-THING WRITTEN HERE...
WAIT, THIS IS...!
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT!

HUH?

THE FINAL MYSTERY,

ARITH-
METIC?
345
+345
655
435
+435
855
655
+855
1510


W...
THE
HELL?
WHAT'S
THIS
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?

AH!
WHY ADDITION ALL OF A SUDDEN?
345
+345
655
345
+345
690
345 + 345 SHOULDN'T BE 655!
AND THE CALCULA-TIONS AREN'T EVEN CORRECT!
345
+345
655
435
+435
855
655
+855
1510
WHAT THE HELL?
435
+435
855
435
+435
870
SAME WITH 435 + 435! IT'S NOT 855!

AHH!
LOOK!
THE 3RD CALCULATION IS CORRECT!
655
+855
1510
655 + 855,
UNLIKE THE FIRST TWO, THIS ONE'S ACTUALLY RIGHT!
REALLY IS 1510!
FIRST THE CALCULA-TIONS ARE WRONG AND NOW THEY'RE RIGHT!?
FOR GOD'S SAKE!
WHAT'S GOING ON...!?
ZERO!
えっ・・
TRANSLATED BY HOX
【10巻につづく】

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